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TWITTER CHANGING FACE OF MUSIC, PG 38

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Skeleton finals, round robin curling Friday

OLYMPICS Some of Canada's strongest athletes are in Friday's skeleton finals, with the women sliding down headfirst at 4:55 p.m. and the men at 7:50 p.m.

Also on ice, Canadian men and women look to maintain their strong start in round robin curling. Kevin Martin's rink plays at 2 p.m. and Cheryl Bernard's at 7 p.m.

GREG DOWNS/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Gold medallist Canadian Christine Nesbitt, centre, stands on the podium with Annette Gerritsen, right, and Laurine van Riessen, left, both of the Netherlands during the medal ceremonies for the women's long-track 1,000-metre competition in Vancouver on Thursday. More coverage, pages 22-30

JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

The girl is golden

Christine Nesbitt skates to the top of the Olympic podium

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

For someone who had just gutted out a sensational come-from-behind finish to capture Canada's third gold by only the squeakiest of margins, speedskater Christine Nesbitt is pretty darn hard on herself.

"It wasn't pretty," said Nesbitt, who beat Dutch silver medallist Annette Gerritsen by the razor-thin edge of her skate in the women's 1,000-metre long track in Richmond Thursday.

She won the race by a mere 0.02 of a second and was visibly disappointed as she glanced at her time on the scoreboard. She said she didn't think her time would stand through the final pairing and said afterwards that she, "didn't come to the Games to win bronze."

Nesbitt's scathing and unflinching self critique — "I love criticizing myself," she admitted — has transformed the 24-year-old from London, Ont., into the fastest 1,000-metre skater in the world.

Nesbitt has won all four World Cups this year in the 1,000 metres and held the fastest personal time among the skaters. She was the odds-on favourite, but succumbed to jitters at the start of the race in front of the loud hometown crowd.

"I was really nervous," Nesbitt said. "When the gun went off, instead of skating, I just kind of panicked."

Nesbitt slipped on her second or third step and immediately fell out of rhythm. She was leading her pair at the 200-metre mark, but quickly realized she was off-pace.

"I knew I wasn't skating very well and I felt, with a lap to go, that the crowd went silent, or went a little bit quieter when they saw how far behind I was."

It was then, however, that the long hours of training and preparing mentally took over. She drove from about 10th position at the 600-metre mark to finish first. The crowd erupted when she crossed the finish.

Kristina Groves, who captured a bronze in Sunday's 3,000-metre, finished the race fourth, missing the podium by 0.06 of a second, behind Dutch bronze-medallist Laurine van Riessen.

"That's what it is," said Groves. "I was lucky the other way the other day: 0.03 to get the bronze. That's the way it goes."

Record temps here for awhile

WEATHER The 2010 Winter Olympics opened on the heels of the warmest 31-day stretch of weather on record for the city at this time of the year.

That record-breaking period, which ended Feb 9., dates back over 114 years and according to Environment Canada the spring-like weather isn't over.

"This ridge that's over us looks like it will be here for a week," said meteorologist David Jones. "We'll have cool mornings but sunny afternoons until mid-next week."

January clocked in at average of just more than 7 C, more than double the month's usual temperature. The average for February is 4.8 C but according to Jones, it is still too early to say whether or not this month will set any records.

"It was the warmest January on record, yes, but we can't confirm anything for the future," added Jones. "February so far has been well above the average."

SEAN KOLENKO/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

SEAN KOLENKO/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Cory Mudge, right, and Carolynn Hallsworth enjoy 9 C weather in Yaletown Thursday afternoon.

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 2

Vancouver Games
Follow Metro as we bring you daily coverage throughout the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.
• Today — Snowboarders rock 'n' roll on the halfpipe, page 22

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Blogger shares security advice

ONLINE Metro-Blenz News Squad bloggers are sharing tips on how to move a little faster through security and say the nightly victory ceremonies are worth it:

• On getting past security for the Finland–Belarus game: Similar to airport security, minus the probes and prods in private places! There are two gates — express for those with very small purses and little else, and the regular lineup for people like me who was packing a big pack sack. I delayed things by having my cell in my pant pocket. To expedite things travel very light.

— Laurie Kingdon

• On Tuesday night I attended my first-ever Olympic Games victory ceremony ... saw the medals being awarded to the deserving athletes and the Barenaked Ladies.

— Natalie Sisson

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Video Canada's women's hockey team defend themselves against criticism of their high-scoring victories at **metronews.ca/canada**

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Photo of the Day **Time for celebration**

MONIKA BECKER/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Edmontonians Andrea and Neil Hanssen show their Canadian pride at Doolins Irish Pub after watching the nightly victory ceremony at B.C. Place. Until March 1, Metro will publish a Photo of the Day submitted by a reader or member of the Metro-Blenz News Squad. Send your submissions to vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Record ridership on city transit

TRANSPORT Vancouver transit was flooded with a record number of riders this past week, and city transit officials say they are prepared for more of the same until the end of the Olympics.

More than 200,000 riders have hit the Canada Line daily since Feb. 12, while the SeaBus has been averaging twice its usual number of riders since the opening ceremonies with 40,000 people crossing the Burrard Inlet each day.

To make room for the influx of transit users, the Olympic transportation team braced for a 30 per cent jump in riders — a number that has been realized — and planned initiatives to reduce the number of drivers coming into the downtown by 30 per cent.

"We're just in qualifying rounds right now," said Dale Brayswell, director of Olympic transportation. "Our plan is happening and it's working."

Other transit options are also breaking rider records. The Olympic Line, the city's 2010 streetcar, reached 23,000 riders on Feb. 14, making it busier than both the Seattle and Portland streetcar networks.

For the remainder of the Games, officials will work diligently to maintain current levels of service.

"The success of transit will not be based on six but 17 days," added Brayswell. "We have to keep it up."

SEAN KOLENKO/
FOR METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

FALL A 42-year-old Vancouver woman was able to walk away after she fell 30 metres off the side of Grouse Mountain and became stuck in a tree Thursday morning. She originally climbed the Dam Mountain Trail to see the sun rise.

PHELPS It has been more than two years since U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps shot to superstardom on the Olympic stage in Beijing. The eight-time gold medal winner was back in the Olympic spotlight Thursday in Vancouver, making an appearance for an endorsement deal.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Employees locked out

Workers at airport restaurants held 1-day strike for job security

Workers at 16 Vancouver airport restaurants were locked out by their employer on Thursday after they held a one-day strike the previous day.

In all, 285 food-service workers employed by HMS Host are locked out.

Single mother Mary Hanisi said she was unhappy and surprised when she was told she couldn't return to work.

"I need the job. I have been working for the company for 10 years. I was going to work, and I don't know why they locked us out," said Hanisi.

The employees say they walked out on Wednesday because HMS Host has refused to guarantee jobs for the employees at the YVR Milestones when it closes down and reopens as a White Spot.

Susan Goyette, HMS Host spokesperson, said the company was ready to allow the striking employees back to work if the union would commit to refraining from taking any further job action during the Olympics and Paralympics.

"We can't have intermittent job action at the airport. We can't have employees striking one day, going back to work the next, and deciding to strike again the day after," said Goyette.

SEAN KOLENKO/
FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Province, Montana make deal to protect Flathead River Basin

ENVIRONMENT British Columbia and Montana will work together to protect a tiny piece of the province described as a missing piece of a world heritage site.

A deal signed between Premier Gordon Campbell and Gov. Brian Schweitzer Thursday will sustain environmental values in the Flathead River Basin, an area in the extreme southeastern corner of B.C., bordered by Glacier National Park in Montana.

The pact is being called "conservation gold" by the Sierra Club of B.C., in part because Campbell has agreed to ban mining, oil and gas development in the region.

But environment groups said there's still a need to create a national park in the lower third of the valley and a wildlife-management area through the rest of the valley and its adjoining habitat.

The Flathead Valley extends south into Montana and the B.C. region is considered the missing piece of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park.

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YVR gets below-average marks in customer service

Vancouver's airport received below-average grades in a customer satisfaction survey released yesterday. YVR scored 669 out of 1,000 — 14 points below average – in the J.D. Powers and Associates study of medium-sized airports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Buses remain the busiest way to travel

BeatTheTraffic

Buses around Metro Vancouver continue to be the busiest of all transit services.

Shuttles have been added to the busier areas to help keep routes on schedule. The key is to allow for those potential waits in your commute and leave nice and early. SkyTrain, SeaBus and West Coast Express seem to be keeping up with the extra traffic quite well, but remember to expect the unexpected and allow yourself lots of extra time.

A bus service has been introduced to help transit service in the West End. An eastbound "Special" will depart daily from the corner of Denman and Davie streets every eight to 10 minutes from 6 a.m. to midnight. The bus will transport passengers eastbound to Pacific Boulevard for the rest of the Games.

Sea-to-Sky highway restrictions remain in effect.

Watch Michel weekday mornings on Breakfast Television and her nightly Traffic Forecasts on Citytv, cable 13.

Schedule check

- Make sure to know the Games event schedule when travelling near Olympic venues to avoid heavy vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Schedule details at vancouver2010 .com.

Games' first 'online stadium' complete

SEAN KOLENKO
for Metro Vancouver

"We wanted to capitalize on the Vancouver Games being the first to use social media."
Bryce Sparks, DDB Canada

VIRTUAL The world's first virtual stadium has been launched into cyberspace thanks to a partnership between the Canadian Tourism Commission (CTC) and VANOC.

The ethereal stadium project was conceived of as part of the Olympic organizer's Cultural Olympiad Digital Edition (CODE), an online venture used to bring international artists and audiences together to participate in the Games.

"We wanted to engage people," said Susan Iris, vice-president of strategic initiatives at the CTC. "This project really brought people together to feel a part of the Olympic Games."

The virtual stadium is composed of photos uploaded to a website. With every photo submission, a ticket to the stadium and a confirmation code is sent to each individual participant. Members can then use this code to locate their photo in the stadium and forward along to others to view as well.

While the pioneering technological qualities of the project may be its most novel characteristic, Bryce Sparks, account director with DDB Canada — an ad agency that worked closely with the CTC on the project — said the site also offers something a little more traditional and quintessentially Canadian.

"We wanted to capitalize on the Vancouver Games being the first to use social media," he said. "But, it's also all about welcoming people to Canada."

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#47	Will there be more than 74 Field Goals made?

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Officials tweak Games security after Biden breach

SECURITY Olympic organizers and security officials have had to tweak their security arrangements — a $900-million plan that's been years in the making — after a man managed to get into the Olympic opening ceremonies and come within a few metres of U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden.

Senior officials for the Vancouver organizing committee, known as VANOC, and the civilian chief of the federal government's security operation said Thursday the system of layered security kept the mentally unstable man from getting really close to Biden. However, they said changes have been made, including tightening security at B.C. Place stadium.

"What I can tell you is he entered through a non-spectator entrance and that the systems and processes for the credential checks, the security in all of those areas, have been tightened up," said Renee Smith-Valade, VANOC's chief spokeswoman.

Sgt. Rich Graydon, RCMP-lead Olympic Integrated Security Unit spokesman, said changes have since been made with ISU entrance supervisors now taking a closer "mentoring" role with the privately employed screeners.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ELAINE THOMPSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden at the ski jumping normal hill qualification on Saturday.

No details

- Neither VANOC nor police would release further details on how a man with a crudely forged pass copied from the Internet could get through the stadium's security perimeter last Friday.

Intrawest to be sold as Games wrap up

AUCTION Ski resort operator Intrawest's debt-laden owner appears to have been granted another week of Olympic advertising before the company is auctioned off as the Games' final skiers race down its flagship Whistler Blackcomb slopes.

Intrawest ULC, owned by New York-based Fortress Investment, was slated for auction Friday after creditors posted a notice in newspapers last month saying that a foreclosure process was to begin.

But a report by Bloomberg News suggested that the auction has been postponed to Feb. 26.

The extension would have the resort owner on the auction block as women's alpine skiers slalom down the hill two days before the Olympic closing ceremonies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

ATTACK A 25-year-old North Vancouver man who fell asleep on the bus with his legs crossed was hit and kicked by two assailants who told him to uncross his legs. The victim was attacked when he got off.

INJURY A Surrey RCMP officer hurt his leg while arresting a suspect who allegedly assaulted members of his family. A 53-year-old man is in custody facing various charges.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

PREMIERES IN SELECTED STORES TOMORROW

Unexpected byproduct of Olympic success

The city of Whistler has had its fill of Olympic tourists, but not in the traditional sense. The increased number of people has the sewage system running almost at capacity, holding steady at 95 per cent. SOURCE: CKNW.COM

Furlong, organizers keep putting out fires

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

The head of the Vancouver Olympics has admitted that the 2010 Olympics have had their share of mistakes, but he thinks the criticism has been overblown.

"I've read some things that I didn't like reading and I don't believe it's true," John Furlong, VANOC's chief executive officer said.

"But having said that, when we make mistakes and things don't go well, you have to fix them."

When an ice-resurfacing machine failed at the Richmond speedskating oval, a new one was immediately brought in, said Furlong.

It didn't matter that bringing in a competitor's product may violate a marketing deal, he said.

"The most important thing is that the field of play is perfect and that it continues to be perfect," he said.

When the public clamoured for greater access to the Olympic cauldron, the fences were pushed back and a platform installed.

> **"The most important thing is that the field of play is perfect."**
> John Furlong, VANOC CEO

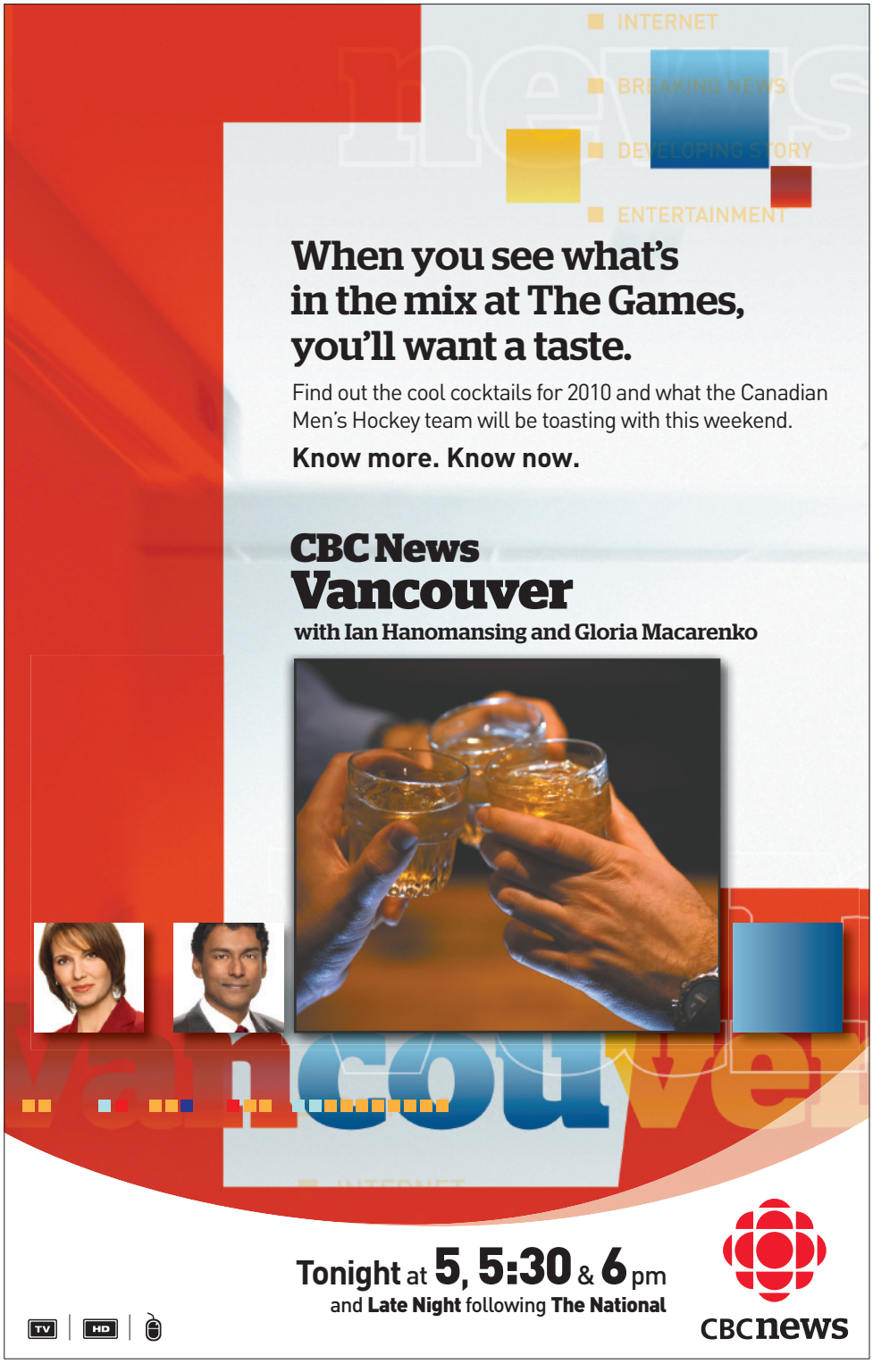
Slow lines at concessions stands are being split to move people along faster, athletes' families whose tickets for snowboarding events were cancelled are being given passes so they can still attend.

It's about how the fires are being put out, Furlong said, not how many there are.

"In the course of the day, there are hundreds of thousands of things that are happening and what we're trying to do is reduce the possibility of them happening," said Furlong.

"And when they do happen, to get them out of the way so people's experiences are not diminished."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Team Canada Fandemonium

FERNANDO CARNEIRO/METRO VANCOUVER

Hockey fans cheer as Team Canada first skates on to the ice at Canada Hockey Place to face Switzerland Thursday night. Canada won 3-2 in a shootout.

Most Canadians say Top 5 finish would be good: Poll

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

SURVEY A top-five finish in the over-all medal standings would constitute a successful Olympic Games, according to most respondents in an Angus Reid poll released Thursday.

In total, 57 per cent of Canadians say a Top 5 finish equals success, with British Columbians leading the way at 63 per cent. Quebecers are the hardest to satisfy, with only 54 per cent saying that finishing among the top five in medals would be enough.

Vancouverites interviewed on Thursday said the Olympics shouldn't be judged by the number of medals alone.

Brian Stewart said that regardless of what happens on the podiums, the extra-curricular activities the city has been offering are enough to claim success.

"I think people enjoyed the partying and the festivities of the Olympics more than the actual medal count," he said.

Ken Loaha, on the other hand, said a gold medal for the men's hockey team will be enough.

"It will be a success," he said. "Hockey is really important here. I don't watch too much of it, but I watch what is important."

This latest survey was conducted entirely online, using 1,007 adults selected from the 100,000 Angus Reid panelists.

SEAN KOLENKO/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Protest vote

- 31 per cent of poll respondents answered there should be no restrictions on Olympic protests, a 10-point drop after last week's violent demonstrations.
- 45 per cent said protests should only be allowed in certain places during the Games, an eight-point increase.
- 14 per cent said protests should be banned altogether during the Olympics, a two-point jump.

News in brief

AVALANCHE DEATH A B.C. man has died after he was caught with two other skiers in an avalanche near Kamloops. Ifor Thomas, a medical doctor, died of his injuries on Wednesday evening after he was dug out from the avalanche in the Trophy Mountain area.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Halifax 'summit' will centre on maternal and child health

Development ministers from G8 countries will meet in Halifax this April to lay the groundwork for talks on maternal and child health.
International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda says the meeting will identify proposals to be discussed by G8 leaders in Muskoka, Ont., in June. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Senior drivers get help

A website — www.olderdriversafety.ca — was unveiled Thursday to help older drivers stay safe on the road and make decisions about when they should retire their car keys. Statistics show a driver over 75 is 3.5 times more likely to be involved in a crash per mile than a 35- to 40-year-old driver. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bob and Doug dragged into slanging match

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

Et tu, America? From David Letterman to top sports columnists and dedicated Olympics fans, Americans have joined the British in jeering the Vancouver Games.

They're taking aim at everything from the rained-out events on Cypress Mountain to dangerous race conditions and technical glitches.

High-profile sports writers at several top U.S. newspapers have pilloried the Games — with one wondering if two beloved Canadian characters from SCTV organized them.

"It's not even a good cyclone fence — more like a sloppy one ... at a construction site."
Greg Kruppa, Detroit News

"Who put Doug and Bob McKenzie in charge of the Olympics?" the Denver Post's Mark Kiszla wrote this week. "Canada has turned the Winter Games into a $6 billion comedy of errors ... you would figure Canada, of all places, could do snow and ice well. You would figure wrong."

Greg Kruppa of the Detroit News wrote Thursday that the unsightly chain-link fence that keeps spectators from the Olympic cauldron at Vancouver's waterfront is an apt allegory for the Games.

"It's not even a good cyclone fence — more like a sloppy one you might see raised temporarily at a construction site," he wrote. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Colbert's contempt

- TV star Stephen Colbert has made mercilous fun of the Games — and Canada.
- He has called Vancouver an "Olympic swamp."
- He has also referred to Canadians as 'iceholes," "syrup-suckers" and "Saskatchewhiners."

Colonel in court via video

THE MILITARY Col. Russell Williams, once a respected commander in the Canadian air force, appeared in court via video to face first-degree murder charges Thursday looking a shadow of his former self.

Williams was dressed in an orange jumpsuit and appeared unshaven.

He stood stooped in front of the camera.

He let out a sigh before stating his full name — David Russell Williams.

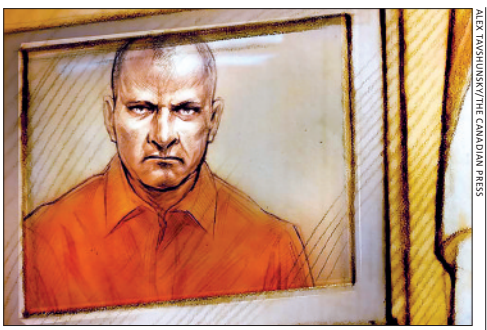
A military officer said he was to visit Williams in jail Thursday to officially relieve him of his duties as commander of the Canadian Forces base in Trenton, Ont.

Williams, 46, is charged with two counts of first-degree murder.

He is also charged with two counts each of forcible confinement, break and enter and sexual assault. THE CANADIAN PRESS

m.metronews.ca

The success of District 9 has it Canadian creators on whirlwind worldwide tour of elite events and private parties. Scan this code for the story.



ALEX TAVSHUNSKY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

In this artist's sketch, Col. Russell Williams appears in a Belleville, Ont., court via a video link.

Boomers pose a challenge: Page

AGING Ottawa needs to face the reality posed by Canada's aging population if it wants to avoid handing over giant deficits to future generations, Parliament's watchdog warns.

With a smaller percentage of people working and paying taxes, the federal debt will keep increasing unless the government cuts spending or raises taxes, Kevin Page said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Layton meets Harper — but gets no commitments

Jack Layton sat down with Stephen Harper on Thursday to outline what he wants to see in the federal budget, but left with no commitments. The NDP leader, who is fighting prostate cancer, said he had a "cordial" 30-minute afternoon meeting with the prime minister and pressed the case for getting more money for women and seniors. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Farewell to soldier John

Our last WW1 vet dies – at 109

He was an unlikely and reluctant figurehead for a generation of heroes.

John Babcock, the last known veteran of Canada's First World War army, died Thursday at the age of 109.

He went in search of military glory at the age of 16, when he tried to sneak his way on to the front lines in France.

"I wanted to go to France because I was just a tin soldier," Babcock said in an interview in July 2007.

His ruse was discovered, however, and he never made it to the battlefield.

He was born July 23, 1900 in Ontario and emigrated to the U.S. in the 1920s.

"I volunteered (for the front lines), but they found out I was underage. If the war had lasted another year I would have fought."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, in a statement Thursday announcing Babcock's death, said: "The passing of Mr. Babcock marks the end of an era."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oh boy, bobsled **Meet the ring-masters**

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lyndon Rush and Lascelles Brown slide past the Olympic rings during two-man bobsled training at the Whistler Sliding Centre at the 2010 Vancouver Games on Thursday.

Quebec on guard for migrants

NEW LAWS Quebec has announced a crackdown on shady immigration consultants.

Similar nationwide action is expected from the federal government.

The announcement vaults Quebec to the forefront of the battle against businesses that mislead newcomers into thinking they can be fast-tracked into Canada, or encourage them to lie on their applications.

To have a right to practise in the province, consultants will now need to pass a test, demonstrate a knowledge of French, have a career track record free of malpractice, and register with the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

HAITI Defence Minister Peter MacKay says at least one of the navy ships stationed off Haiti will soon be returning to Canada. Athabaskan and Halifax have been helping in the relief effort following a devastating earthquake last month. He did not say which one will head home. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Former NYPD commissioner sentenced

Former New York City police Commissioner Bernard Kerik, who nearly became chief of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, was sentenced to four years behind bars Thursday for eight felonies, including filing false taxes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Dalai Lama calls China 'childish'

After his meeting with U.S. President Barrack Obama, the Dalai Lama is chiding China for its "childish" and "limited" approach to Tibetan efforts for greater rights within China. Obama welcomed the Dalai Lama for closely-watched White House talks Thursday, risking fallout in China over the get-together and Obama's statement supporting preservation of Tibet's identity and human rights. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Man who flew plane into Texas building left angry letter to IRS

AUSTIN A software engineer furious with the U.S. tax agency launched a suicide attack on it Thursday by crashing his small plane into an Austin, Texas, office building housing nearly 200 federal tax employees, setting off a raging fire that sent workers running for their lives.

The FBI tentatively identified the pilot as Joseph A. Stack, 53. Law enforcement officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because the investigation was still going on, said that before taking off, Stack apparently set fire to his house and posted a long anti-government screed on the web. It was dated Thursday and signed "Joe Stack (1956-2010)." In it, the author cited run-ins he had with the Internal Revenue Service and ranted about the tax agency, government bailouts and corporate America's "thugs and plunderers."

"I have had all I can stand," he wrote, adding: "I choose not to keep looking over my shoulder at 'big brother' while he strips my carcass."

The pilot took off in a single-engine Piper Cherokee from an airport in Georgetown, about 48 kilometres from Austin, without filing a flight plan. He flew low over the Austin skyline before plowing into the side of the hulking, seven-story, black-glass building just before 10 a.m. with a thunderous explosion that instantly stirred memories of Sept. 11. Flames shot from the building, windows exploded, a huge pillar of black smoke rose over the city, and terrified workers rushed to get out.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two bodies

- Emergency crews found a second body in the wreckage where the small plane smashed into the building that housed workers for the U.S. tax collection agency. Fire Battalion Chief Palmer Buck said late Thursday that authorities "have now accounted for everybody."

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Luger's tragic death saved others: Coach

The coach and uncle of the Georgian luger killed during a practice run at the Olympics says the athlete's death has saved the lives of other competitors.

Felix Kumaritashvili said Thursday that Olympic officials only put a safety shield on the course after his nephew Nodar's death. He says before the changes were made, the track was "unfit for competition."

Nodar Kumaritashvili died during practice last Friday when he lost control of his sled and slammed into a trackside steel pole at nearly 145 km/h. Olympics and luge federation officials said the accident was due to his coming out of a turn late. His family claims the track was unsafe.

The death of the 21-year-old luger cast a dark cloud over the Games and prompted criticism that the Whistler Sliding Centre track was too fast and technical.

The Olympian is set to be buried in his hometown of Bakuriani, Georgia, on Saturday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SHAKH AIVAZOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man lights candles at a portrait of Nodar Kumaritashvili, the Georgian luger killed in a practice run at the Olympics, in downtown Bakuriani, Georgia, Thursday.

m.metronews.ca
SCANLIFE

Things are looking grim for U.S. Democrats, but right wing infighting may put help halt their sliding fortunes. Scan this code for the story.

Arrests strike another blow to Taliban

KARACHI Pakistani authorities, aided by U.S. intelligence, have apprehended more Afghan Taliban chiefs following the capture of the movement's No. 2 figure — arrests that together represent the biggest blow to the insurgents since the U.S.-led invasion in 2001.

The arrests of more than a dozen Taliban leaders, including known associates of Osama bin Laden, came as militants fought to keep a grip on their southern stronghold of Marjah. Hundreds of militants were holding out against a six-day-old assault by 15,000 U.S., NATO and Afghan troops.

Nine Taliban militants linked to al-Qaida were nabbed in three raids late Wednesday and early Thursday near the port city of Karachi, Pakistani intelligence officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't supposed to release the information.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bomb kills dozens

- A bomb blast at a mosque in Pakistan's northwestern tribal belt has killed 29 people including some militants, underscoring the relentless security threat even as Pakistani-U.S. co-operation against extremism appears on the upswing.

U.S. Marines dropped behind Taliban lines

AFGHANISTAN Two American helicopters dropped elite U.S. Marine recon teams behind Taliban lines before dawn Friday as the U.S.-led force stepped up operations to break resistance on the seventh day of fighting in the besieged militant stronghold of Marjah.

U.S. and Afghan troops encountered skilled sharpshooters and better-fortified Taliban positions Thursday, indicating that insurgent resistance in their logistics and opium-smuggling centre was far from crushed.

A Marine general said that U.S. and Afghan allied forces control the main roads and markets in town, but fighting has raged on elsewhere.

A British general said he expected it would take another month to secure the town.

NATO said six international service members died Thursday, bringing the number of allied troops killed in the offensive to 12.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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French mayor calls fast food chain's halal menu 'discriminatory'
Roubaix Mayor Rene Vandierendonck wants the Quick burger chain to "propose a new, diversified" menu, adding that "the fact that they do not offer other choices to non-Muslim clients is not acceptable." The Quick restaurant in Roubaix has served only halal food since November. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Survivors plagued by rain, mud

Haiti
Crisis

A heavy downpour sent the throngs living beside Haiti's shattered national palace cowering under tarps early Thursday as the rush of water made much of the camp of earthquake victims impassable — an ominous foretaste of the rainy season to some.

Amputees struggled to move through mud on crutches and wheelchairs.

Many in the makeshift tent cities housing nearly 600,000 people in Haiti's capital still live without even plastic tarps, which the international community is trying to get to everyone by May 1.

So when the rain comes, bed sheets spread on sticks as protection from the sun quickly get soaked and people move in temporarily with neighbours who have waterproof tents. The lucky actually have beds off the ground.

"It's hard to keep my kids clean. There's too much rain, too much dirt," said Joseph Dukens, 25, at the camp beside the national palace.

He pointed to his baby daughter, who had her leg amputated below her hip.

"It's only going to get worse."

The government, aid groups and foreign governments have been wrangling for five weeks over how to housing earthquake survivors, but neither the weather nor the people are waiting.

Makeshift camps have become shantytowns, adding a new dimension to the capital's teeming slum life with an extra helping of disease, hunger and misery brought on by the Jan. 12 disaster, which killed more than 200,000 people.

While the camps blossomed, officials debated what to do with the 1.2 million people left homeless by the disaster.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taiwan **Hoping for families**

WALLY SANTANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A young boy holds his sister as their family prays at a local temple for the Chinese Lunar New Year in Taipei, Taiwan on Thursday. A Taiwanese official has urged citizens to procreate amid fears the Year of the Tiger may bring reduced reproduction on the island, which has one of the world's lowest birth rates.

Rebels storm presidential palace in Niger

ATTACK Renegade soldiers in armoured vehicles stormed Niger's presidential palace with a hail of gunfire during broad daylight Thursday in an apparent coup attempt in the West African nation.

Military music played on state radio later that day — the same music that aired after two previous coups in the late 1990s — and the strongman president's whereabouts were unknown. Government officials could not be reached for comment.

Smoke rose from the white-hued multistory palace complex and the echo of machine-gunfire for at least 20 minutes sent frightened residents running for cover, emptying the country's downtown boulevards at midday.

Traore Amadou, a local journalist who was in the presidency when the shooting began, said President Mamadou Tandja was kidnapped by mutinous troops. It was unclear whether the septugenarian leader was still at the palace.

Tandja first took power in democratic elections in 1999, following an era of coups and rebellions. But he triggered a political crisis by pushing through a new constitution last August that removed term limits and gave him near-totalitarian powers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Are Swiss courts going to the dogs (and cats)?

ANIMAL RIGHTS Voters in Switzerland will decide in a Mar. 7 poll whether every canton (state) should be required to appoint an animal lawyer to represent the interests of pets and farm animals in court — in effect a dedicated public prosecutor for dogs, cats and other vertebrates that have been abused by humans.

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Exhibit honours 'hero of two nations'

An exhibit opened in Russia on Thursday on the life of an American veteran believed to be one the few soldiers to fight for both the U.S. and the Soviet Union in the Second World War. The Russian Museum exhibit, titled "Joseph R. Beyrle — A Hero of Two Nations," presents 260 artifacts from Beyrle's life and military career. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ex-student held in fatal school stabbing in southern Germany

LUDWIGSHAFEN A 23-year-old man is being held on charges he stabbed a teacher to death Thursday at his former school in southern Germany, and told authorities he was angry about bad grades, a prosecutor said.

The suspect, whose name was not released in line with German privacy laws, was arrested on the school campus in Ludwigshafen and is being held on suspicion of murder, prosecutor Lothar Liebig said at a press conference.

The 58-year-old victim, the suspect's former teacher, died from at least one fatal stab after a fight, despite efforts to administer first aid, Liebig said.

The suspect entered the vocational high school, which has around 3,200 students, at around 10 a.m. armed with a knife as well as a starter pistol, he said.

After confronting the former teacher the two fought and the teacher was stabbed, Liebig said.

The suspect then went into another school building, fired several blank shots from the starter pistol, and lit a flare, he said.

The fire triggered an alarm, prompting the evacuation of the school and bringing authorities to the campus, Liebig said.

The suspect lay down his weapons when confronted by police and was arrested without incident, police chief investigator Franz Leidecker said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Killing recalls covert warfare

Israel's shadowy spy agency prime suspects in Dubai hit

The killing of a Hamas operative in Dubai by a squad of hit men conjures up images of the killings that followed the murder of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics and a bungled attempt to poison a Hamas leader in Jordan 13 years ago.

Israel's Mossad spy agency — the prime suspect in the death of Mahmoud al-Mabhouh last month — has known both triumph and embarrassment in decades of covert warfare, and the latest episode would appear to include elements of each.

The killers, whoever they are, escaped. But they were caught on video and left behind what appears to be significant evidence: The Dubai police force found that at least seven of them used the names of real Israelis with European passports.

The Mossad is suspected of several violent incidents in the Mideast in recent years, such as the killing of a top Hezbollah officer in the heart of Damascus in 2008. But its reputation — particularly in the Arab world where it is often seen as an ominous force behind unexplained events — goes back decades.

In 1972, armed Palestinians raided the rooms of Israel's Olympic team in Munich, killed two athletes and took nine hostage. A botched rescue attempt by German police ended in the deaths of all of the Israelis in a wild shootout.

Golda Meir, Israel's prime minister at the time, ordered the Mossad to kill those responsible. That directive launched an unprecedented covert offensive that saw a string of Palestinian operatives — many of them not directly connected to the massacre — gunned down across Europe and the Middle East.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bogota **Still breathing**

FERNANDO VERGARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man wearing a skull costume breathes through an oxygen mask during a protest against a package of government decrees for the health sector in Bogota, Colombia on Thursday.

News in brief

WEBCAMS A Philadelphia school district used school-issued laptop webcams to spy on students at home, potentially catching them and their families in compromising situations, a family claims in a federal lawsuit. Officials at the school district can activate webcams on the computers without students' knowledge or permission, the lawsuit alleges. The plaintiffs suspect the cameras captured students and family as they undressed and in other embarrassing situations, the suit claims.

BABY THROWING A man pleaded not guilty Thursday after police say he told them he threw his three-month-old daughter off a bridge, as searchers held out hope that the infant might still be found alive. Shamsid-Din Abdur-Raheem, 21, appeared composed during his arraignment in New Jersey.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

The tide begins to turn

UrbanCompass

Paul Sullivan

metronews.ca/sullivan

The sun is finally shining on "the worst Games ever," and it's about time.

What started in tragedy, rain, fog, and mechanical error has rallied under an endless blue sky, and even the harshest Olympic critics, those refugees from Fleet Street, have moderated their scorn.

If the Brits ever win a medal, the dirge could turn into an all-out rhapsody.

Even local critics of the Games (myself included — I'm still having trouble with a $105-million, lethally dangerous toboggan slide, not to mention a $6-billion price tag) have been blown away by the negative reaction of the international press.

However, a combination of spectacular weather and Americans have turned the tide, and now the media, never a bunch for independence of thought, are now climbing all over each other to praise what they previously pooh-poohed.

Watch as we all wake up to the story that almost got away: All you have to do is walk down the street to experience the amazing transformation of Vancouver into the Feel-Good Capital of the World. Thousands of people who don't write columns for a living are absolutely into it, and the buzz is phenomenal. People stand in line — willingly — for hours, waiting to touch a gold medal at the Mint, or buy a pair of red Olympic mittens at the Bay, or bay at Stephen Colbert and his goofy American shtick.

VANCOUVER 2010Games

You gotta love the Americans: By mid-week, if anyone owned the podium, it was the USA and their amazing athletes: Lindsey Vonn, Shaun White, etc. With all that good news to report, NBC stopped looking for trouble and focused on the restoration of the Natural Order of Things, complete with a Super, Natural backdrop. Welcome to Vancouver, Calif.

Meanwhile, down on Jack Poole Square, the Olympic torch is still in jail. Here's a piece of free advice for VANOC officials, who apparently never met a chain link fence they didn't want to erect. Pull down the stupid fence altogether. Put up a nice red-and-white velvet rope and assign a 24-hour honour guard of Mounties in their eternally cool full-dress uniforms to guard the flame.

A cliché? You bet! But if anything can ensure a happy ending, it's a heap of Mounties standing on guard for thee with the true north strong and free right behind them! Mountains, ocean, unshackled Olympic spirit and multicultural, gender balanced Mounties! I guarantee unlimited photo coverage! Go Canada Go!

As for getting the RCMP to co-operate, are you kidding? They're desperate for anything that will turn around their Taser-tarnished image. And no media savvy anarchist would try to spoil that shot. This could be the start of a beautiful friendship.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

The allure of GPS programming while driving

Marketplace

Erica Johnson

metronews.ca/johnson

Here in Vancouver, hordes of people have descended for the Olympics. Most out-of-towners are wandering through the streets on foot — but some brave souls have decided to battle the traffic in vehicles. And to help navigate the way to Olympic venues, a trusty GPS directs tourists to Whistler, Richmond and elsewhere.

Fortunately, a lot of these drivers have a passenger in the car to plug in directions. But a CBC Marketplace poll found — across Canada — that's often not the case. Almost half the time (47 per cent), drivers said they personally program their navigation devices while the car is in motion — dangerous because 80 per cent of car accidents happen when drivers take their eyes off the road.

And check out the latest statistics from police. In Ontario, lawmakers made it illegal as of Feb. 1 to use a handheld device (like cellphones and a GPS) while driving. In Toronto alone, in the first week of February, cops handed out 1,499 tickets under the "distracted driving law." And the Ontario Provincial Police have issued 236 tickets and 572 warnings so far this month.

And why are people programming on the go? Because they can. Makers of portable GPS devices say they're not responsible if people don't drive safely. When it comes to a GPS built right into a vehicle, some automakers offer GPS systems that lock out drivers from programming while the car is in motion — some don't.

"We looked at what's required to use that system, and we found that certain tasks, like entering a destination, are more difficult and should be done when a vehicle is stopped," said Tom O'Dell, GM Canada's manager of technical planning.

Transport Canada has known for years that programming a GPS while driving may be a hazard. In 2003, it was looking at whether or not to regulate the use of these devices in moving vehicles. But no deal was ever made with the makers of GPS devices built into cars (and the agency has no mandate over the portable navigators).

Back to those Olympic tourists and their GPS's ... there is one other place the devices fall short. If drivers are looking for the road to gold, only the athletes know how to get there.

Tonight on Marketplace, find out what happens when test drivers are asked to find directions on their GPS. That's at 8:30 p.m. on CBC Television.

Erica Johnson is a journalist and co-host of Marketplace, which airs each Friday at 8:30 p.m. on CBC Television.

Worth mentioning

Winter Olympics score gold for composting

VANCOUVER 2010Games

There's more than one kind of Olympic gold in them thar hills.

Whistler Village is turning mountains of garbage, and rivers of — well, let's just say gold and bronze — into black gold at its spanking new, if rather malodorous, multimillion-dollar composting facility.

90 The plants' two, 80-metre-long composting tunnels can swallow up to 35 tonnes of food waste and up to 90 tonnes of bio-solids per week — and churn it out the other end two weeks later as a rich, black loam that is sold to contractors and the public and is also used by the municipality.

The 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver and Whistler have been selling themselves as the greenest Games ever. The municipality of Whistler, along with nearby Pemberton and Squamish, are doing their part.

While the trash volume at the village transfer station hasn't yet reached Olympian proportions, Whistler's municipal operations manager Ron Sander says the sewage system was near 95 per cent capacity on the Games' opening weekend and the peak flow appears to be holding steady.

All that sewage is being handled by a brand new, environmentally sensitive wastewater treatment plant that sits adjacent to the Whistler athletes village. The $38.5-million treatment facility wasn't part of the Olympic project, but construction started two years ago and the 2010 Games clearly pushed the municipal team.

"It definitely gave us a deadline," said Sander.

"It gave us the anticipation of the rush to flush, so we had to deal with that."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Abbey Road studios for sale

Britain's National Trust may intervene to protect the Abbey Road studios where the Beatles recorded most of their hits. The London studios are being put up for sale by the cash-strapped record company EMI. There are fears they could fall into private hands and be demolished. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Transcontinental faces changes

MARKETING Transcontinental (TSX:TCL.A) says the print medium isn't dying, even though digital media is forcing Canada's largest printer to adjust to rapid transformation in the communications and advertising business.

"We see print and the new media co-existing for a very, very long time," chief executive Francois Olivier said in an interview yesterday following the company's annual shareholders meeting. The Montreal-based company said that the printing, newspaper publishing and marketing firm will continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of customers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Wireless companies around the world look on with worry as Silicon Valley emerges as the new king. Scan this code for the story.

Retail Giving away the store

AP PHOTO/DOUG BEGHTEL

Bob Moore, of Milwaukie, Ore., speaks with employee Lan Hughes. Moore celebrated his 81st birthday Wednesday by transfering his entire whole-grain production business to his employees. The business includes a retail store and restaurant .

Lavazza changed industry

MARKETING Emilio Lavazza, who helped make Lavazza coffee the best-selling espresso in Italy and expand its global reach to 90 countries, has died at the age of 78, the company said yesterday. Lavazza died in the northern city of Turin of a heart attack on Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Inflation up to 1.9%

Gas, transportation costs drive numbers up

Canada's inflation rate shot up to attention-grabbing levels last month as higher prices for cars, gas and vehicle insurance pushed the consumer price index to a 14-month high.

All the inflation indicators rose in January: The overall consumer price index jumped by more than half-a-point to 1.9 per cent; the Bank of Canada's core index hit two per cent; and the month-to-month index increased 0.3 per cent.

Inflation rates

1.0% Vancouver

1.4% Calgary

1.8% Edmonton

January's increase means the annual rate has gone from minus 0.9 per cent to a positive 1.9 per cent in four months.

Scotia Capital economist Derek Holt said the "stickiness" of underlying core inflation may cause Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney to consider moving off his conditional commitment to keep interest rates at historic lows until July.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bing, Yahoo almost ready to roll

ONLINE Microsoft Corp. and Yahoo Inc. have received clearance from regulators in Washington and Europe to proceed with a search partnership intended to challenge Google Inc.

The companies announced yesterday that the partnership has been approved without restrictions by the Justice Department and the European Commission. Under the 10-year agreement, Microsoft's Bing search engine will steer search-related ads on Yahoo. Yahoo is due to get 88 per cent of the revenue generated from the ads placed alongside the search results on its sites.

The companies said they will begin implementing the deal in the coming days by shifting Yahoo's search platforms to Microsoft. They hope to move most advertisers and publishers before the 2010 holiday season, but may wait until 2011 if necessary, and expect to complete the process by early 2012.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rules may force buyers to alter plans

Some Canadians in expensive real estate markets may have to change their game plans for buying a first home because of new rules announced this week by the federal government.

While the changes are unlikely to be a deterrent for most Canadians, it could make it harder for those on the fringes to qualify for mortgages, industry observers say.

"You'll have the odd marginal purchaser who might be affected by this but I think that these are reasonable ways to keep spending in check," says Dale Ripplinger, president of the Canadian Real Estate Association and a realtor in Regina.

The changes are designed to prevent Canadians from taking on too much debt ahead of expected interest rate increases later this year.

It's a situation that contributed to the housing crisis in the United States.

"If you can't qualify for a five-year fixed (mortgage) in terms of your total debt servicing, then maybe you shouldn't be buying a house to begin with," says Jim Murphy of the Canadian Association of Accredited Mortgage Professionals.

As of April 19, all borrowers must meet the requirements of five-year fixed-rate mortgages, even if they opt for lower variable rates.

The change would raise the income required to purchase a house, but not necessarily monthly payments.

Those squeaking by using lower three-year rates as a yardstick may be forced to act quickly before the rules take effect, set their sights lower or remain a little longer on the sidelines, he says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Changes

- The changes announced by Finance Minister Jim Flaherty also include reducing the amount of equity a homeowner can take out of their property to 90 per cent, and requiring a 20 per cent down payment for government-backed mortgage insurance on "speculative" investment properties.

Toyota president asked to testify on recalls

AUTO The chairman of a House committee investigating Toyota's recalls said Thursday the company's president should testify at a hearing next week, citing questions from American motorists on "whether it is safe to drive their cars."

Akio Toyoda, the grandson of the Japanese automaker's founder, had said previously that he did not plan to attend a series of hearings scheduled to start on Capitol Hill next week. But he had told reporters in Japan earlier that he would consider appearing if invited.

Rep. Edolphus Towns, D-N.Y., chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, wrote Toyoda that the committee wants him to "clarify" how the car manufacturer is addressing a widening recall crisis. The controversy over safety issues has burgeoned over the past four months with the recall of roughly 8.5 million vehicles.

Reports of deaths in the U.S. connected to sudden acceleration in Toyota vehicles have surged in recent weeks, with the toll of deaths allegedly attributed to the problem reaching 34 since 2000, according to new consumer data.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business in brief

GOLD Barrick Gold Corp. will grow its reserves and increase the earning potential of its African operations with two separate strategic moves, the world's biggest gold miner announced Thursday.

WHOLESALE American wholesale prices shot up at double the expected pace in January, propelled by big increases in energy costs. The surprisingly large jump was viewed as a temporary blip and not the start of inflation problems, however. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Sato joins IndyCar series

Former Formula One driver Takuma Sato has joined the IndyCar series for the 2010 season. Sato will drive for KV Racing Technology and will join fellow Japanese driver Hideki Mutoh on the 17-race IndyCar series. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Santana feels confident

New York Mets ace Johan Santana, left, is feeling confident about his rebuilt left elbow and his team. Santana, who reported to spring training Thursday, says he feels fine throwing all of his pitches. Santana had elbow surgery late last season. The two-time Cy Young winner began throwing off a mound during a minicamp last month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Raptors stand pat at trade deadline

"My job is to make (Chris Bosh) want to stay, because we're going to be pretty darn good."
Jay Triano, Raptors coach

NBA Chris Bosh ambled through a darkened hallway and disappeared behind a set of elevator doors. The Toronto Raptors were still practising, the NBA's trade deadline was fast approaching and it was soon revealed that Bosh, Toronto's unquestioned star, would not be playing in the team's next game.

He had not been traded, though, just injured. The 25-year-old suffered a mild sprain in his left ankle while blocking a shot in Wednesday's overtime loss to the Memphis Grizzlies, and was headed off to see the doctor while his general manager saw what was available at the deadline.

Bryan Colangelo opted not to make a move by the 3 p.m. ET cut-off, leaving his resurgent team untouched, and allowing the speculation to circle around Bosh, who is set to become a free agent this summer.

"Right now, I think Chris is playing very good basketball, and he's a big part of this team," Raptors coach Jay Triano said after Thursday's practice. "My job is to make him want to stay, because we're going to be pretty darn good."

Bosh, who just returned from his fifth straight appearance at the NBA's all-star game, will be part of an eye-popping crop of free agents that includes Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James and Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade.

"We also have another card to play in this if we don't deal him now — which we're not trying to do," Triano said. "If, at the end of the year he wants to go somewhere else, we're the team that can offer him the most money. And if he's leaving somewhere for the money, then it would be a sign-and-trade situation."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NBA

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What will Tiger say?

Anticipation runs high for golfer's statement

When Tiger Woods makes his first public appearance in nearly three months Friday, the big question is what will he say?

The topic was intriguing Americans — Woods was a trendy subject on Twitter a full day before his appearance.

Almost as intriguing is which "friends, colleagues and close associates" will be in the Sunset Room on the second floor of the Mediterranean-style clubhouse at the TPC Sawgrass.

Woods hasn't been seen in public since crashing his car into a tree outside his Florida home Nov. 27, sparking sordid revelations of infidelity, and he hasn't been heard in the 78 days since a magazine released a voice mail that he allegedly left for one of the women to whom he has been romantically linked, pleading with her to remove his number from her cellphone.

U.S. PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem, who made the clubhouse available and was offering logistical help, has said he would attend, and as many as four other members of his executive staff will be in the room.

GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES

A British bookmaker has set the odds at 4-to-7 that Tiger Woods' wife, Elin, will be by his side during Friday's appearance.

Woods is to return to therapy after he speaks, according to a letter from Finchem that was obtained by The Associated Press.

A British bookmaker has set odds at 4-to-7 that Woods' wife, Elin, will be with him. William Hill didn't stop there, however. It offers 8-to-1 odds that Woods will announce he is getting a divorce, 12-to-1 odds that his wife is pregnant and 100-to-1 odds that he is retiring.

"While Tiger feels that what happened is fundamentally a matter between he and his wife, he also recognizes that he has hurt and let down a lot of other people who were close to him," his agent, Mark Steinberg, said in an email Wednesday.

"He also let down his fans. He wants to begin the process of making amends and that's what he's going to discuss."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marlins sign former all-star
Former all-star pitcher Mike MacDougal has signed a minor-league contract with the Florida Marlins. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Knicks land T-Mac, with eye on summer

Stoudemire stays a Sun as deadline passes

The Cleveland Cavaliers hope they took another step toward keeping LeBron James. The New York Knicks are in a better position for a run at him — and a second superstar, too.

And they aren't the only team lining up for a chance to become a summer spender.

The Knicks acquired former scoring champion Tracy McGrady Thursday in a three-team swap with the Houston Rockets and the Sacramento Kings. The deal left them on the verge of being able to offer two maximum salary contracts to the 2010 free agent class that could be headlined by James.

Amare Stoudemire could be in the market for one if he decides to leave Phoenix — where he will again finish the season after spending the weeks before the deadline atop the trade rumour mill.

"I've maintained that unless there was something out there that improved our team and put us in a lot better position moving forward, then we weren't going to do anything. And that was the case," Suns general manager Steve Kerr said.

Chicago, Washington and Sacramento all cleared enough salary in moves before the 3 p.m. ET deadline to be able to afford a max player, and the Los Angeles Clippers got close.

The Cavaliers gave James more reason to stay home. They acquired forward Antawn Jamison Wednesday, a deal that could make the Eastern Conference leaders even stronger.

"We're trying to build a franchise that all players want to be a part of, that can have sustainable success and do things at a high level," general manager Danny Ferry said. "Clearly, LeBron's an important player for northeast Ohio, for Cleveland, for the Cavaliers. It's all ground in winning, too. Antawn can help us win. We're excited what he can bring to us over the next few years."

m.metronews.ca

SCANLIFE

Suns GM says keeping Stoudemire was best option for his team. Scan this code for the story.

The Knicks can afford James and perhaps someone else in the class that could include Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh.

By including Jared Jeffries in the deal for McGrady, whose $22.5-million US contract expires after this season, the Knicks removed $6.9 million from next season's payroll and left them with about $32 million in salary cap space.

Those top free agents would each earn a little more than $16.5 million in the first season of a max deal.

In the meantime, the Knicks hope McGrady can lead them into the playoff race. He's only played six games this season after returning from knee surgery, but is convinced he has plenty left.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

FREE AGENTS Carolina defensive end Julius Peppers, Buffalo wide receiver Terrell Owens and New Orleans safety Darren Sharper are among 235 NFL players scheduled to become unrestricted free agents next month. A complete list of players with at least six seasons in the league and contracts due to expire was posted Thursday by the NFL on NFLLabor.com.

BASKETBALL The New Jersey Nets have reached a deal with the state to move their regular-season games to Newark's Prudential Center for two years until their arena is built in Brooklyn. Under the deal, the Nets will pay a $4-million US penalty over two years to get out of their lease at the Izod Center in the Meadowlands.

TRIAL The Minnesota state lawsuit over the NFL's suspensions of Vikings players Kevin Williams and Pat Williams will go to trial next month. The Williamses were suspended for four games after testing positive in 2008 for a banned substance.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Top seeds tumble in Match Play action

GOLF The often-unpredictable Match Play Championship more than lived up to its reputation in a topsy-turvy second round when the remaining top four seeds and defending champion were beaten at Dove Mountain Thursday.

An event already minus Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson sent several of the world's best to an early exit.

Lee Westwood, Jim Furyk, Martin Kaymer and Rory McIlroy — seeded second through fifth entering the tournament — were among the day's losers.

Defending champion Geoff Ogilvy was beaten by Colombian Camilo Villegas 2 and 1. Top-seeded Steve Stricker lost in Wednesday's first round.

The highest remaining seed was England's Paul Casey at No. 6. Casey, the runner-up a year ago who won the World Match Play Championship in England in 2006, swiftly dispatched Mike Weir of Bright's Grove, Ont., 5 and 4.

The field was narrowed to 16 for Thursday's third round on the sun-drenched desert course near Tucson.

Woods, obviously, skipped the event because of his personal woes, and Mickelson begged off to go on vacation with his family.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

International

- The final 16 features five players from the United States, three each from England and South Africa and one apiece from Colombia, Spain, Japan, India and Thailand.

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Vote of confidence for women's hockey

International Ice Hockey Federation president Rene Fasel says the women's tournament will remain part of future Olympics despite the fact that the Canada and the U.S. are "on another planet." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Games

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Chan sixth as U.S. skater wins gold in figure skating

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

SKATING Sixth place — not the outcome first-time Olympian Patrick Chan or Canada was expecting.

The 19-year-old was one of the country's top medal hopefuls, but placed a disappointing seventh after a rocky short program on Tuesday, and despite redeeming himself on his long program Thursday, failed to catch up to his competitors.

The bigger story to come out of the Pacific Coliseum on Thursday night, however, was American skater Evan Lysacek stealing gold from defending champion, Russian Evegni Plushenko — who was favoured to win.

In a surprising upset, Plushenko — who skated last — only scored enough points to put him in second place.

Japan's Daisuke Takahashi took home bronze.

As for Chan, the sixth-place finish is an improvement from seventh, where he was sitting before heading into the long program.

He had a fall halfway through his routine and looked disappointed as he skated toward his coaches, but still managed to score an impressive 160.3 points from the judges.

That placed him in first with seven skaters left, but to hang on to a podium spot, the skaters ahead of him needed to make some epic blunders and as much as Canadians likely prayed for that, it wasn't in the cards.

Swiss near miss for Team Canada

Shootout win helps Canadians avoid repeat of 2006 upset by Switzerland

Sidney Crosby scored in a shootout as Canada eked out a 3-2 victory over Switzerland Thursday at the Winter Olympics in a game that evoked scary memories of the Swiss upset win four years ago in Turin.

Canada was stymied for much of the game by Jonas Hiller in the Swiss goal. Martin Brodeur stopped all four Swiss shooters while Crosby scored on Canada's fourth shot to secure the win before a sea of red-and-white clad Canadian fans at Canada Hockey House.

"I look forward to that chance and am glad I made the most of it," Crosby said of scoring the shootout winner.

It was the fourth anniversary of Canada's agonizing 2-0 loss at the 2006 Games when they were stoned by goalie Martin Gerber, who missed these Games with an injury.

FERNANDO CARNEIRO / METRO VANCOUVER

Canada's Patrick Marleau attempts to tip a shot past Switzerland goalie Jonas Hiller in first-period action at Canada Hockey Place Thursday night. Canada won 3-2 in a shootout.

This time, it was Hiller who frustrated Canada's collection of NHL stars. The Canadians outshot the Swiss 46-23 in regulation time and overtime.

"It was one of those nights where he was focused and in the zone," Crosby said of Hiller.

Dany Heatley and Patrick Marleau scored for Canada while Ivo Ruthemann and Patrick von Gunten replied for Switzerland in regulation time.

The Swiss have only two NHL players, captain Mark Streit and Hiller, but they battled even up for most of the game and gave Canada a scare.

"It was one of the best games I've ever seen from the Swiss national team," Hiller said.

Olympic rules give three points for a win and only two for a win in overtime or a shootout, so Canada has five points from two games, one behind the United States, who improved to 2-0-0 with a 6-1 win over Norway.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bettman

- NHL commissioner Gary Bettman insists there's still plenty of time for an agreement to be reached on further Olympic participation and says his sole focus now is on the tournament currently underway in Vancouver.

With earbuds in, snowboarders call the tunes

PLAYLISTS The crowd erupts as the announcer belts your name and rock 'n' roll echoes from below.

Sounds like the perfect atmosphere to pump up an Olympic athlete, right?

Not on the halfpipe, where snowboarders are rocking out to their own beat.

"It kind of blocks out all the peripherals and when the crowd's down (there) roaring, I'll be listening to like Drop The World by Lil Wayne or something like that," said Canadian Jeff Batchelor, who cranks up his iPod during training and competition.

Jeff Batchelor

"I have a pretty killer playlist that I just sort of let run through, but four minutes before my run I like to throw on the Cops theme song Bad Boys."

Rules allow halfpipe riders to listen to their own music at events, including the Olympics, and many are wired for sound as they drop into the pipe. Batchelor's current staples include Eminem, Avenged Sevenfold, Jay Z, and songs from the video game Rock Band.

Some listen to fire themselves up, while others try to block out the venue's sound system, which continuously blasts music at the base of the pipe, even during an Olympic event.

But not every rider wears headphones when they sail down the halfpipe.

Justin Lamoureux, who finished seventh in Wednesday's Olympic halfpipe final, never listens to tunes during competition.

"I was just getting the energy from the crowd," the Squamish, B.C. resident said after the event.

"It's pretty much the chance of a lifetime to have the Olympics at home, in my backyard ... so I just wanted to hear the roar."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

VANCOUVER GAMES MedalCount

NATION				TOTAL
U.S.	5	5	7	17
Germany	4	4	3	11
Norway	3	3	2	8
Canada	3	3	1	7
France	2	1	4	7
South Korea	3	2	0	5
Austria	1	2	2	5
Switzerland	3	0	1	4
China	2	1	1	4
Italy	0	1	3	4
Sweden	2	0	1	3
Netherlands	1	1	1	3
Russia	1	1	1	3

Swiss bobsled driver OK after crash
Switzerland's Beat Hefti, the top-ranked two-man bobsled driver in the world, is reportedly OK after slamming his head in a pre-Olympic training crash at the Whistler Sliding Centre. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Three wise Olympians

All this talk of "Owning the Podium" is a distraction from what's really happening at the Olympics.

Yes, the fascination with winning is healthy and something to be expected for fans of home country athletes.

But failing to recognize the performances of those who haven't claimed a medal is something to be avoided.

There is, after all, a lot to be said for the struggle and the integrity of the Olympic journey in spite of the fact that it doesn't always culminate with gold, silver or bronze.

A case in point is the experience of three Canadian women who raced in luge at Whistler.

No medals, no prizes to carry home and next to no appreciation of their efforts. Heck, they couldn't even get on TV after the race was over — dropped from the lineup so hockey analysts could breakdown the ins and outs of a Canadian dismantling of Norwegians in a preliminary match.

It is understandable given our obsession with the hunt for hockey gold.

Still, to dismiss the contributions of Regan Lauscher, Meaghen Simister and Alex Gough — athletes who persevered in spite of tragedy and major alterations to the field of play — seems less than Canadian.

Listen to what these three women had to say when their Olympic moment was over.

"It was the race of my life," said Meaghan Simister of Regina.

"It's the Olympics and you have to take what comes," said Alex Gough of Calgary, as she considered the aftermath of a Georgian slider's death, which tainted the competition.

"The greatest advice we get is to expect the unexpected. This was about rising to the challenge and coming through it."

The last word belonged to Regan Lauscher of Red Deer, her third and last Olympic appearance behind her. There were no regrets at not having ascended the podium, but rather another sentiment vastly more important.

"Complete and total gratitude," Lauscher said. "I feel extremely privileged to be Canadian and a Canadian athlete. It's been an opportunity that I never could have dreamed of in a sport I wasn't sure I wanted to do. Walking away from this with the experiences and friendships and all that I've had ... will be etched in my heart forever."

It wasn't about Owning the Podium for these wise athletes. It was about racing with purpose and dignity.

These are the most important things to possess at any Olympic Games.

Regan Lauscher

Gemini Award winner and author Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. A 20-year CBC Sports veteran, he has covered a variety of professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

ShareYourViews
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Vancouver Games in brief

CURLING Canadian curler Cheryl Bernard has made it three wins in a row to start the Vancouver Olympics. The Calgary skip knocked off the previously undefeated German squad 6-5 yesterday in front of a thunderous hometown crowd. Bernard's rink will next hit the ice Friday night against Denmark. In other women's action, Britain pounded Russia 10-3, Denmark beat the United States 7-6 and China knocked off Japan 9-5.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's medals will come soon: COC

MEDALS Caroline Assalian, executive director of Olympic preparation for the Canadian Olympic Committee, says Canada has its best medal chances near the end of the Games.

"The last four days of these Games will be spectacular for the Canadian Olympic team, that's where we will really rack up the medals," Assalian said, listing sports such as skeleton, ski cross, bobsled, curling and hockey.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

No reason for ski team to panic ... Yet

WHISTLER It may be too early to panic over the Canadian ski team's dwindling chances of winning three Olympic medals, but a worried finger is hovering over the button.

No one wearing a Maple Leaf waved from the podium after the women's super-combined event Thursday.

It's the third race of the Games where Canadian skiers came away empty-handed.

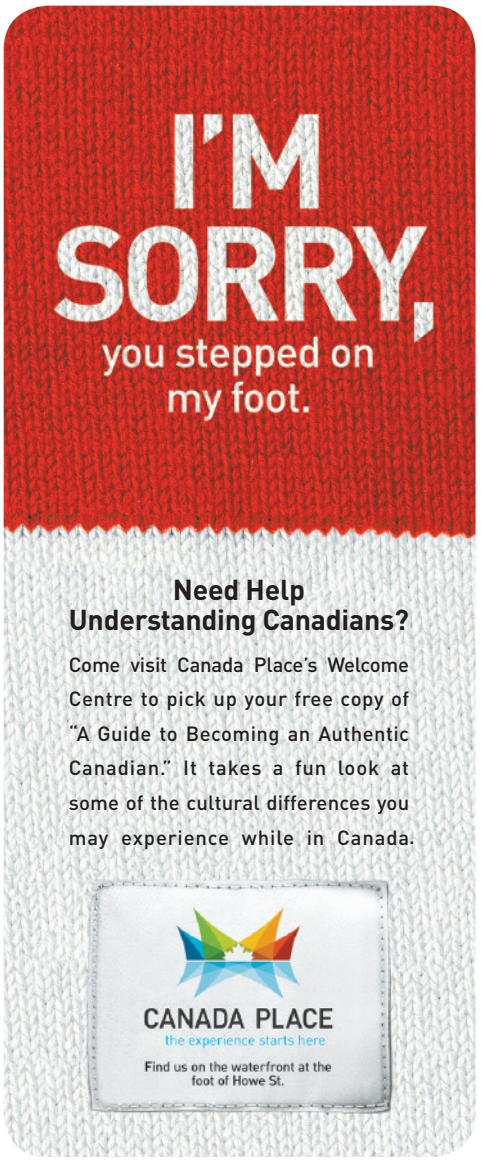
The men's super-giant slalom Friday will be the next chance for a Canadian to win the country's first Olympic ski medal in 16 years.

"If we don't have any medals after the super-Gs I'm going to get a little worried."
Max Gartner, Alpine Canada

The women's super-G is Saturday.

"The super-Gs are two big races," said Max Gartner, Alpine Canada's chief athletics officer. "If we don't have any medals after the super-Gs I'm going to get a little worried.

"We knew it was going to be a tough competition. I think we still have some chances. I'm going to remain optimistic."
THE CANADIAN PRESS



Norwegian netminder favours Canada over U.S.

Norway hockey goaltender Pal Grotnes gives the nod to Canada as better than the United States after losing to both at the Olympics — 8-0 to Canada and 6-1 to the Americans. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Games

It's going to 'get weird'

American snowboarder White looks ahead to the future

He conquered the Olympic halfpipe — again — and now American Shaun White is ready for things to "get weird."

It's already starting.

An hour after the snowboarding superstar provided one of Vancouver's signature moments by landing a Double McTwist 1260 during a celebratory run down the halfpipe, a reporter asked White if he has designs on getting into movies.

"Only action-packed ones," White said with a laugh. "Slo-mo running. Flying off buildings."

But there are no immediate plans to go to Hollywood, at least not yet. White's goals in the near future are considerably more grounded: A little sleep, a little surfing. Some skateboarding. And maybe hanging out with the U.S. president.

"I'm free for dinner," White said.

Considering his burgeoning celebrity — White is the face of his sport and attracted a massive U.S. television audience during his medal-winning runs — U.S. President Barack Obama might want to find a hole in his schedule.

Four years ago White was a fresh-faced 19-year-old who was known as much for his red hair and "Flying Tomato" nickname as for his snowboarding ability.

But the gold medal he won on the halfpipe at the Turin Games made him an instant celebrity. White has spent the interim becoming his sport's first true crossover star, complete with a video game, clothing line and a smile that advertisers adore.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shaun White

Women's hockey team bonds with dog tags, dedications

RITUAL The waterworks were well underway when it was Gina Kingsbury's turn to dedicate her Olympic Games to people she knew and loved.

Her teammates on the Canadian women's hockey team had already stood up and named family and friends, some of whom were no longer living. Kingsbury, about to play in her second Olympics, did the same, but tacked on an interesting person — the younger version of herself.

Gina Kingsbury

"That little girl who stayed outside and played hockey when it was minus 40 with boogers coming out of her nose and mom yelling, 'Come on, it's dinnertime,'" the 28-year-old from Rouyn-Noranda, Que., said Thursday. "'No, no, one more game.'

"It's kind of a full circle. These will probably be my last Games, so it was important for me to look at those pictures of when I was a little girl and realized I did it."

The morning of Canada's opening game against Slovakia, all 21 players stood before their teammates and named aloud the people they were about to play for in Vancouver.

All players were also issued dog tags, which are what military personnel wear around their neck in combat as identification.

On the three tags, one bears the No. 2 for the two Olympic gold medals Canada has won in women's hockey. Another is engraved with the No. 9 for the number of Canada's world championship titles. The third was left open for players to engrave names of loved ones on it.

The Canadian women went 3-0 in the preliminary round and have a four-day break before their semifinal Monday against Finland, which lost 6-0 against the United States Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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U.S. women's hockey team blanks Finland

Jessie Vetter made 23 saves and captain Natalie Darwitz had a goal and two assists Thursday as the U.S. women's hockey team completed its undefeated run through the Olympics' preliminary round with a 6-0 victory over Finland. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Games

Whirlwind on the ice

Marianne St-Gelais displays unadulterated glee

As a child, Marianne St-Gelais stood on her head to watch TV rather than sit on her backside.

Her mom calls her a "gust of wind" who just couldn't sit still, barrelling through life with an energy and happiness that touched everyone.

Canadians saw a glimpse of that effervescence this week as the 20-year-old rookie won a silver medal in the 500-metre short-track speedskating final with unadulterated glee.

"She wasn't hyperactive, but she was active," says mother Francine Prive, who watched the drama unfold from the Pacific Coliseum stands with husband Gaetan St-Gelais.

"She was the type of person that when she went somewhere, it was, 'OK, I'm coming through.' She pushed, she was curious, connected. When she was around, you saw her and you heard her."

St-Gelais grew up with three siblings on the shores of Lac-St-Jean in Quebec's Saguenay region. In her small town of St-Felicien, a friend one day asked if the kids were interested in trying short-track speedskating. Marianne was 10 when she joined the St-Felicien Lightning.

The family ended up loving the sport and found themselves part of a rich network of clubs in their region: There are at least seven within an hour's drive of their home.

But speedskating wasn't the only sport in which she shone. She was also competing provincially in track and cross-country skiing. Around age 15, she decided to focus on the ice. Then it was all a big blur of victories.

In 2007, she finished first overall at the Canada Winter Games with four gold medals in short track. Two years later, she became the world junior champion in the 500 metres and set a world junior record.

Marianne St-Gelais

Prive says it came as a surprise when her homebody daughter started travelling and competing further and further away. Last year, she wasn't able to come home at all over the summer because of the intense training schedule.

"She was never a rebel," says Prive. "She was always in a good mood, always smiling.

"I never thought she would be the first to leave the house. She was the one who cried when she left."

When she started training with the national team, she met its rising star, Charles Hamelin, and the two became a couple. Hamelin's father, Yves, is the team's leader and his brother Francois also competes. With tight teammates Tania Vicent and Valerie Maltais, Montreal is her home away from home.

St-Gelais speaks a mile a minute in interviews, always with a sparkle in her eye and a smile plastered across her face. She's still the clown and was described in a recent team "yearbook" put together by Montreal La Presse as "the pest" for her constant nattering.

At a news conference Thursday, she said the medal was a huge reward after years of hard work for her and her family. She said she was anxious to see some footage of the celebrations back in St-Felicien.

"When I was back before Christmas, I already felt the energy of the people there," said St-Gelais, whose younger sister Catherine is now coming up in the sport.

"I understand their reaction (after the win) because I'm doing the same thing as they are. I'm very happy to represent St-Felicien and the whole Lac-St-Jean region."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fleury gets taste of Olympics

HOCKEY Marc-Andre Fleury got the chance to step on the ice at Canada Hockey Place — at least during warmups.

Team Canada's third-string goaltender dressed as Martin Brodeur's back-up for Thursday's game against Switzerland, leaving Vancouver Canuck goalie Roberto Luongo in street clothes.

On Wednesday, coach Mike Babcock said Fleury would not dress for the game.

However, a Hockey Canada official indicated Babcock had a change of heart and said Luongo was feeling fine.

Fleury helped the Pittsburgh Penguins to a Stanley Cup in June and is attending his first Olympics.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Olympics in brief

DOPING The Court of Arbitration for Sport has dismissed German speedskater Claudia Pechstein's last-ditch bid to compete at the Vancouver Olympics. Pechstein, who has won nine Olympic medals, wanted to skate long track in the second week of the games. She drew a two-year suspension a year ago for showing irregular blood levels. The six-time world champion insists she was not using performance enhancers. She lost an earlier appeal to CAS and the Federal Court of Switzerland.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANDREW MEDICHINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Norway's Tora Berger celebrates at the finish line Thursday after winning the women's biathlon 15-kilometre individual race at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Whistler.

Skier wins Norway's 100th medal

BIATHLON Tora Berger earned Norway's 100th Winter Olympic gold medal Thursday by winning the women's 15-kilometre individual biathlon race after the main favourites faltered.

Berger missed only one target on her very last shot for a one-minute penalty, but had built up such a large lead that it didn't matter. She finished in 40 minutes 58.2 seconds, beating silver medallist Elena Khrustaleva of Kazakhstan by 20.7 seconds.

Canadian

- The top Canadian was Megan Tandy of Prince George in 50th.

Darya Domracheva of Belarus took the bronze after finishing 28.2 seconds behind Berger.

No one else came within a minute of Berger, with German veteran and three-time gold medallist Kati Wilhelm 1:04.5 behind in fourth.

After watching all the competitors fail to match her time, Berger broke down in tears as teammates and coaches rushed to congratulate her.

"It's a bit of a shame that I should stand here and cry when I've performed so well," Berger said. "I don't know what to say."

Berger had bib No. 2 in the interval-start race, meaning all the other main favourites who started behind her were getting reports about her intermediate times from their coaches.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PEOPLE POWERED

Hockey fans ride emotional roller-coaster with 3-2 win

TENSION Team Canada's 3-2 shootout win against Switzerland cost fans tears, fears and at least one mangled manicure before Sid the Kid did what the edgy throngs would have preferred he'd done earlier.

One hockey fan among the hundreds gathered around any screen they could find on Vancouver and Whistler streets lamented he lost five years of his life during the final moments as Team Canada finished the game, then an overtime period, in a 2-2 tie.

"I was losing it. Calling my mom — it was straight down to the wire — I was crying, it was just an emotional roller-coaster," said Patrick Waring, 21, from High River, Alta.

When the team that carries so much of Canada's Olympic hopes finally won with a Sidney Crosby shootout goal, the overwhelming relief was mixed with irritation at the ordeal fans had just been put through.

"I'm blowing up here. This is the biggest thing that could have happened to Canada. We pulled through in the end, (but it was) right down to the wire, man," said Waring.

Fans streaming through the darkening Vancouver streets were still reeling from the close call.

Meghan Palynchuk, 29 from Oakville, Ont., said she ruined a fresh manicure. "I was biting my nails, I didn't even want to watch the shootouts," she said. "I was covering my eyes, I was so afraid."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Owning the podium they're not
Russian nationalist parliament members called Thursday for top sports officials to resign because of the country's mediocre showing in the Winter Olympics. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One week down

A look around town on Day 7 of the Winter Games

DMITRY LOVETSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANDREW MEDICHINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FERNANDO GARNHIRA/METRO VANCOUVER

Top: France's Emmanuel Chedal makes an attempt during Men's large hill ski jumping training in Whistler. Second from top: Norway goalie Pal Grotnes allows a goal to the U.S. at Canada Hockey Place. The Americans won the game 6-1. Above: Silver medallist Annette Gerritsen of the Netherlands reacts after the women's 1,000-metre speedskating race at the Richmond Oval. Right: A Team Canada fan reacts to a Canadian goal against Switzerland last night.

Above: Liudmila Kalinchik of Belarus collapses after the women's biathlon 15-km race yesterday. Silver medallists Sergey Novikov of Belarus and Ole Einar Bjoerndalen of Norway hold up gold medallist and Bjoerndalen's countryman Emil Hegle Svendsen after the Biathlon Men's 20 km.

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Nearly five million Canadians tune into short-track speedskating

Short-track speedskating topped the Olympic TV ratings on Wednesday with an average audience of 4.9 million, according to CTV. Some 3.5 million watched Marianne St-Gelais win a short-track silver medal in the 500 metres. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Games

Empty seats no big deal?

Organizers say sponsors choose to attend final segments

Fans are filling Olympic venues in Vancouver, but seats reserved for sponsors and athletes do remain empty at some events, Games organizers said Thursday.

While the problem is nowhere near as obvious as at past Games where entire sections were filled with volunteers to give the appearance of a crowd, Vancouver organizers acknowledged their system isn't perfect either.

Dave Cobb, deputy chief executive officer for the organizing committee, said some blocks of empty seats at events like figure skating have been traced to the fact that corporate groups choose not to attend the earlier segments and only arrive for the final skaters.

"Overall, we're really pleased that tickets are being used," Cobb said.

Of course, not all tickets are being used. Organizers were forced to refund 28,000 tickets for snowboarding events at Cypress Mountain after the standing-room spectator area became waterlogged.

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Filling the stands hasn't been a problem for men's hockey, but seats reserved for sponsors and athletes have remained empty at some events, such as figure skating, organizers say.

Some fans have expressed anger at the way organizers are refunding the tickets because they are giving back the money to the original buyer, not the person who actually has the ticket in hand. So people who bought snowboarding tickets off eBay or Craigslist may not receive their refunds, though people who bought the tickets through VANOC's fan-to-fan marketplace will. The committee gets a 20-percent cut of the sales.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Schussler, Rempel are a study in contrasts

JASPER JUINEN/GETTY IMAGES

Brittany Schussler competes in the women's speed skating 10,000-metre final on Day 7.

SPEEDSKATING As Brittany Schussler began her Olympic journey, fellow Winnipeg speedskater Shannon Rempel saw her's come to an end — and not in the way she wanted.

Skating in her first Olympic race, Schussler finished in 25th in the women's 1,000 metres at the Richmond Olympic Oval with a time of one minute 18.31 seconds.

Rempel rounded out her Vancouver Olympics by finishing 21st in the 1,000 with a time of 1:18.17.

Rempel is a former world junior champion in both the 500 and the 1,000 and has reached the podium on the World Cup circuit, but her lack of success at the Vancouver Games has left her baffled.

"That's the problem. I don't really know what happened all season," said Rempel, at times on the verge of tears. "This is the year it counted and it didn't come together."

Waiting is part of Schussler's Olympic experiences. In addition to watching the 2006 games as an alternate, Schussler had to wait until Day 7 of the Vancouver Games to get her skates on the start line.

With her first race under her belt, Schussler still has two events to go: The 1,500 metres on Sunday and the team pursuit on Feb. 27.

While things are just getting started for Schussler, Rempel wound down her Games wondering what could have gone wrong. In addition to the result in the 1,000, Rempel finished in 27th in the 500 on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

UFC president would support MMA at Olympics

Ultimate Fighting Championship executives say they'd support a move for mixed martial arts to become an Olympic sport. UFC president Dana White said while his company would not actively lobby the International Olympic Committee, he would support their inclusion in the games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Austria cries foul over Swiss ski bindings

The ski jumping rivalry between Austria and Switzerland was turned up a notch Thursday when the Austrian team claimed Swiss gold medallist Simon Ammann is using improper bindings and threatened an official protest if he doesn't change them for the next event.

The Austrians told the International Ski Federation Thursday that Ammann has modified his bindings to improve his aerodynamics in a way that has not been approved, and they are not safe.

"They give you an advantage, but it's too dangerous," Austrian spokesman Raimund Fabi told The Associated Press. "The skier gets flatter in the air, the angle gets flatter. So you can lie better in the air, and therefore you go further."

The Austrians are not challenging the normal hill result, but are threatening to lodge a protest after the first round of the large hill event Saturday if Ammann uses the same gear.

FIS spokesman Horst Nilgen said the federation's technical committee will examine the bindings and determine whether they are legal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ice dreams

DAVID J. PHILLIP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian Cynthia Phaneuf practises Thursday at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. The women's figure skating competition begins Tuesday with the short program.

Briton takes early lead in skeleton

RESULTS Amy Williams of Great Britain leads after the first day of the Vancouver Olympics women's skeleton event.

The 27-year-old from Cambridge recorded a combined time of one-minute 47.96 seconds in her first two runs of the four-heat event at the Whistler Sliding Centre.

Kerstin Szymkowiak of Germany was second, three-tenths of a second back, and Canada's Mellisa Hollingsworth was third, almost four-tenths of a second off the pace.

The final two runs are set for Friday, with the gold medal going to the best combined time in all four heats.

Amy Gough of Abbotsford was second after the first heat, but fell off the pace in the second run and sits tied for seventh with Shelley Rudman of Great Britain.

Michelle Kelly of Fort St. John is 13th in the 19-sled field. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Luge federation not planning to release report until March

It will be the end of March before the world governing body of luge (FIL) releases its report on the Olympic competition that claimed the life of a young Georgian athlete. Nodar Kumaritashvili of Georgia died from injuries sustained in a horrific training crash last Friday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Games

SANDRA BEHNE/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Alpine skier Kwame Nkrumah Acheampong attends a press conference on Day 7.

Snow Leopard records a song

The African skier known as the Snow Leopard can now add musician to his improbable list of accomplishments.

Kwame Nkrumah Acheampong, known for his trademark white leopard-print ski suit and underdog story, has defied the odds by becoming the first person from the snowless African country of Ghana to qualify for the Olympics.

"It was fantastic to see people reaching deep into their own pockets to support a team when they didn't have any connection in terms of being Canadians."
Kwame Nkrumah Acheampong

Now he's entered the recording studio with Canadian fiddler Ashley MacIsaac to record a benefit song for his Olympic dream. The instrumental tune, tentatively entitled Dreams, is set for release Friday. Acheampong, 35, said MacIsaac approached him after the Games opening ceremonies, where MacIsaac performed. Members of Vancouver band Spirit of the West were also involved in the recording.

Acheampong, who will compete in the men's slalom and giant slalom next week, said Canadians have helped him realize his dream of competing in the Olympics.

He estimated it would have cost him and his team a minimum of $25,000 to come to Whistler, but Canadians have given him a free ride.

"It was fantastic to see people reaching deep into their own pockets to support a team when they didn't have any connection in terms of being Canadians supporting Canadian Olympians and trying to support us as well," Acheampong said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Winless Slovak women's team enjoying wild ride

HOCKEY When Zuzana Tomcikova first put on goalie pads and followed her big brother onto the ice 15 years ago, women's hockey was young. In Slovakia, it really hadn't been born.

Ever since that first tagalong day, the sport has provided one wonder after another to Tomcikova, from the excitement she felt when those first pucks thudded off her pads to the exhilaration she experienced when her Slovak women's hockey team arrived at its first Olympics.

"Hockey is always something new and exciting," said Tomcikova, the tall, brown-haired sophomore who has led her nation's improbable rise. "I don't think I would have ever believed that we would make it here if somebody had told me a few years ago."

"I don't think I would have ever believed that we would make it here if somebody had told me a few years ago."
Zuzana Tomcikova

The fulfilment of this dream might not be pretty to others: The Slovaks began the Olympics with an 18-0 loss to Canada, and they still haven't won a game in Vancouver. Yet their tenacious play and rowdy fan base have invigorated this one-sided, top-heavy tournament. Even casual Canadian fans attending the Slovaks' games soon end up rooting for the underdogs.

The Slovaks are the most unlikely competitors in the eight-nation field in Vancouver, earning their spot in a 2008 qualifying tournament by stunning Germany, France and Kazakhstan in succession. But Tomcikova knows Slovakia's run will end Monday after the second round of classification games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vonn's home remedy not just a cheesy trick, store says

HEALING Workers at a cheese store in Vienna have confirmed it: People really do use "topfen" for medicinal purposes.

"Topfen can't replace a doctor, but it definitely has healing properties," Maria Scharf said, standing behind a cheese counter.

Topfen is the Austrian curd cheese that's become part of the Winter Olympics lexicon thanks to alpine skier Lindsey Vonn. Although the cheese is edible, she wrapped it around her right shin to help keep swelling down from a bruise.

Such treatment has been described as a home remedy. The cheese store workers have their own tales.

Scharf recalls an elderly woman who stopped by the store every week for years to buy a kilo of the curd to soothe her sore knee.

Helene Harrer, Scharf's co-worker, said her mother got topfen packs in the hospital after infusions caused her arm to swell.

While there has been no widespread surge in topfen sales in Austria, media there seem to be having fun with it.

The online version of the regional Kleine Zeitung used a headline last week that read, Red-White-Red Curd for Lindsey Vonn. A day later, Die Presse wrote, With Curd at the Starting Line. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Alice down under Pg 32

Mia Wasikowska says she was feeling very "bizarre" while filming Tim Burton's take on Alice In Wonderland. See inside for more.

Movies Pg 33

Scorsese takes on the thriller genre with Shutter Island.

Music Pg 38

ACDC and Bon Scott's legacy live on 30 year after his death.

Television Pg 40

Less Than Kind wants to push boundaries on HBO.

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At a glance
Shutter Island ⊕⊕⊕⊕, Fish Tank ⊕⊕⊕½, Reel Injun ⊕⊕⊕⊕, Defendor ⊕⊕⊕⊕

Movies

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ A CLASSIC; ⊕⊕⊕⊕ EXCELLENT; ⊕⊕⊕ GOOD; ⊕⊕ FAIR; ⊕ POOR

Through the rabbit hole in 3-D

Life gets curiouser and curiouser for Alice actress

Alice in Wonderland director Tim Burton explains his vision to Mia Wasikowska, who plays the title character.

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Movie **feature**

Australian Mia Wasikowska might not be particularly well known now, but that's all about to change.

The actress was the surprise choice to play the titular Alice In Wonderland in the upcoming 3-D adaptation by director Tim Burton.

That's a pretty iconic character and giant film to take on for a 19-year-old with little blockbuster experience, but an opportunity that Wasikowska couldn't resist.

"There's a certain amount of pressure that comes with playing a character who is beloved by so many generations," Wasikowska admitted to Metro. "But you just have to keep in mind that you can't really please everyone. It was really important to remember that we were making our version of Alice and to stick with our version. That's something that Tim and I started talking about very early on."

Tim Burton has taken a slightly different approach to the material than expected and Wasikowska promises that audiences will get a new interpretation of Lewis Carroll's classic world and characters.

"Alice is 19 in our story, so she's a very different person than she was when she was seven," revealed Wasikowska. "She comes back to Wonderland without any recollection of the previous visit at that age when young women all of a sudden face new expectations from their family and society. So this movie is about trying to hold onto yourself amongst that and trying to figure out the balance between pleasing others and pleasing yourself."

Alice In Wonderland opens March 5

Sounds just like the sort of tale of outsiders fighting for individuality that we've come to expect from Burton in films like Edward Scissorhands and Ed Wood.

To achieve the strange almost living cartoon visual design that Burton was striving for, practically all of the film was shot on a green screen with most of the sets and even some characters animated with computers later.

It was a filmmaking experience unlike anything Wasikowska had done before and one she admits to finding quite odd.

"It was bizarre to shoot in that kind of environment. But I think it worked for this project because it really emulated what I think it's like to be in Wonderland."

The movie will inevitably be a career-changing project for Wasikowska who has quickly gone from an up-and-comer to an actress whose likeness is plastered on billboards and children's toys.

"It's almost like it's not me. Obviously it is, but even when I look at the poster I feel like I'm looking at someone else completely out of context."

On the web

- For movie trailers, screen times and photos — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

Katie Jarvis stars in the British drama Fish Tank.

Fish Tank no teenage wasteland

Fish **Tank**

Director: Andrea Arnold
Stars: Katie Jarvis, Michael Fassbender
Classification: STC
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕½

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

REVIEW When The Who's Pete Townshend wrote the lyric "it's only teenage wasteland", he may have had the backdrop of Fish Tank in mind.

After all, set in a gritty poor housing project, the film's writer/director Andrea Arnold (Red Road) definitely captures the ugly look and struggle of a mixed-up youth in urban Britain.

Precisely portrayed by newcomer Katie Jarvis, Mia is a 15-year old who escapes from neighborhood bullies and her alcoholic mother by privately mastering hip-hop dance moves in an abandoned apartment.

However, when mom brings home a paternal but mysterious new boyfriend (Michael Fassbender of Inglourious Basterds), Mia begins to discover a young lust for life and the fatherly figure.

Told in the so-called style of "kitchen sink drama," Fish Tank takes its sweet time to illuminate its characters' relevance but its gritty realism is there from the start.

While Arnold affirms a definite knack for tone, she flourishes her cast's stunning performances with symbolism — most notably in Mia's discovery of a horse chained in an abandoned lot. Not exactly subtle but a sweet touch nonetheless.

Although the complications become ever so slightly conventional near its conclusion, this British drama still remains more compelling than any coming-of-age movie Hollywood studio would produce proving that Fish Tank is anything but teenage wasteland.

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Avatar book 'epic'
Avatar director James Cameron say his planned book based on the box office hit will not be a novelization, but a "big, epic story that fills in a lot of things." IMDB.COM

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

A-class touch in B-movie

Leonardo DiCaprio, left, and Ben Kingsley star in Martin Scorsese's thriller Shutter Island.

Shutter **Island**

Director: Martin Scorsese
Stars: Leonardo DiCaprio, Ben Kingsley, Mark Ruffalo
Classification: 14A
Rating: ●●●●

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

For years, Martin Scorsese has admitted his desire to have worked in old Hollywood; when directors were hired hands who nimbly changed subjects and genres from film to film.

Shutter Island sees the director slipping into this mode, taking on a thriller with all the familiar trappings of the genre. While the movie does provide the requisite suspense and entertainment, Scorsese also adds his distinct touch to the project, making this B-movie veer dangerously close to becoming an A picture.

If he weren't such a talented personal filmmaker, this guy would be one hell of journeyman director.

Shutter Island stars Leonardo DiCaprio in his fourth consecutive collaboration with Scorsese.

Despite a wonky accent, it's one of DiCaprio's finest hours as an actor, even though multiple viewings are necessary to appreciate all the levels of his performance.

He plays a troubled detective assigned to finding a missing patient in a secluded mental institution. As is always the case in these movies, nothing is as it seems.

The initially helpful hospital staff lead by Ben Kingsley becomes increasingly suspicious as DiCaprio's recurring nightmares start manifesting themselves in the daytime. It all builds towards a big twist that is easy to predict, but one that carries a surprising emotional weight and context that's not quite so easy to see coming.

Scorsese clearly had a ball slumming it with this genre outing. The movie is filled with loving references to films of the past and impeccably constructed cinematic set pieces.

It's a movie that demands multiple viewings as the first round will play like classy genre fun with a devastating kick in the pants, while the second viewing will feel more like a tragedy.

Whether or not audiences will devote that much time to what seems like little more than fleeting entertainment remains to be seen, but Scorsese is not filmmaker interested in cheap thrills.

Shutter Island is certainly not the director's best work, but it does prove that he is incapable of making a movie without the thought and care of a master.

• For a Shutter Island trailer, screen times and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies

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Renner's career taking off

The Hurt Locker star Jeremy Renner is on a career high. It seems he has plenty of options now, including a role alongside Ewan McGregor in The Raven, starring in Peter Berg's Battleship and another mystery project he's not ready to name yet. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Reel Time

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At war with grief

Messenger highlights a different side of conflict

Oren Moverman is now a filmmaker to watch after securing a Best Original Screenplay Oscar nomination for his directorial debut The Messenger.

The story of two disgruntled army officers who personally inform the next of kin when soldiers are killed in combat may have arrived in some U.S. theatres quietly, but it clearly struck a cord with the Academy and should do the same with Canadian audiences when it is released next week.

The concept offers a unique approach to examining the impact of war without ever showing actual combat. Unsurprisingly, that's exactly what drew Moverman to the material.

"The idea came up in a casual conversation with my co-writer Alessandro Camon," Moverman told Metro. "We talked about the war and about how the United States had never really gotten to see the families of the soldiers who had died. At the time it was even illegal to show military funerals on television.

The Messenger opens next week

"So he suggested, 'If we made a film about casualty notification officers, that would be an interesting way to enter the military world from a very dramatic and recognizable place.' As soon as he said it a light bulb went off in my head and I knew we had to write it."

The idea may have come quickly, but Moverman admitted that it took four years to secure financing and bring the script to the screen.

Oddly, he never saw himself as the director while working on the script.

"I have always wanted to direct, but I didn't choose this film, the film chose me in a way," revealed Moverman.

"We had Sydney Pollack, Roger Michel, and Ben Affleck come in at different times to try to direct the movie, but it didn't really work out with them. I was almost about to direct another movie when all of a sudden, the producers asked me to take over this one."

Though it may not have been planned this way, The Messenger proved to be a stunning debut for Moverman. Thanks to a delicate use of humour, excellent casting (including an Oscar nominated performance from Woody Harrelson), and directorial restraint the film feels refreshingly honest.

It was something the first time director was acutely aware of when he shot the movie.

"I was always concerned about that. I tried to bring a certain discipline to the material in terms of how far to push the emotional buttons."

Woody Harrelson. left, and Ben Foster star in the Oscar–nominated The Messenger.

A scene from the documentary Reel Injun.

Reel truth about First Nations on film

Reel Injun

Director: Neil Diamond
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●●

IAN GORMELY
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Few of North America's First Nations population have ever worn a headband, not that you'd ever know that from watching the hundreds of westerns churned out by Hollywood.

Decades of this kind of misrepresentation of America's First Nations people on movie screens lead to generations of misunderstanding and mistreatment. It's a phenomenon which Canadian filmmaker Neil Diamond explores in his new documentary, Reel Injun, a poignant and often humorous examination of the history of Native Americans on film.

Diamond begins with some of the first ever moving images which captured First Nations' traditional dances, then takes viewers through the early days of Hollywood where First Nations stories were given equal play as any other subject.

It wasn't until the Great Depression hit that First Nations' stereotypes — the noble savage standing in the way of white American expansion — begin to take hold before becoming deeply entrenched conventions of 1950s westerns. It wasn't until the 1990s, when First Nations filmmakers emerged, that Native American stories reemerged on the silver screen.

While a film focused solely on Hollywood would have been sufficient, it's the detours that Diamond takes that makes this such an enjoyable and enlightening movie. Diamond uses Hollywood reenactments of historical events like the battle at Little Bighorn or Pocahontas' relationship with John Smith to examine myth versus the reality, and sheds an embarrassing spotlight on the phenomenon of "redface," where none-Native Americans actors were dressed up as First Nations.

The director's light-handed and hearted approach to the subject are the keys to Reel Injun's success. Diamond, himself First Nations, never hides his own opinions on the matter, but he also never lets them take over. Instead he lets his outrage come out through his subjects.

At times Diamond veers a little too far outside of his subject (a side-trip to a First Nations themed summer camp, though funny, adds little to Diamond's argument) but never quashes the film's momentum.

Messenger director up for Cobain pic

Oren Moverman, Oscar-nominated writer-director of The Messenger, is staying in downbeat land for his next movie — he's in talks to write and direct Universal/Working Title's untitled Kurt Cobain biopic. **EMPIREONLINE.COM**

Reel Time

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Bruce Willis, left, and director Kevin Smith at work on the set of Cop Out.

'Real' shooting on Cop job

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

He may have made nine movies to date, but filmmaker Kevin Smith considers his latest comedy to be his first "real" directing job.

"I'm not a filmmaker," insisted Smith. "I'm a guy who rips open his chest, pulls out fatty chunks of his heart, puts it on a platter, projects it and goes, 'You get it?'"

Not only has that vulnerability earned the New Jersey writer/director a dedicated following since his debut with Clerks but after the disappointing release of 2008's Zack and Miri Make a Porno, it nearly left him devastated.

"I thought I was dead," said Smith regarding the film's sluggish opening. "I thought that either internet (fans) or Canada would take a hit out on me for ruining Seth Rogen's career. Mercifully, by the end of the weekend we were able to get up to a $10 million opening but even that was anemic … I was like 'I give up.'"

Cop Out opens next Friday

In the aftermath, Smith retreated and took up an interest in hockey (he now loves the Edmonton Oilers) which he acknowledges led him "to salvation in some weird way."

Further bolstered by two sold-out speaking engagements in Toronto, Smith realized that he needed to step away from his own scripts and re-establish a new niche in Hollywood. Kismet or coincidence, he soon got the offer to direct Cop Out — a Bruce Willis/Tracy Morgan buddy comedy written by Robb and Mark Cullen.

> **"I'm not a filmmaker. I'm a guy who rips open his chest, pulls out fatty chunks of his heart, puts it on a platter, projects it and goes, 'You get it?'"**
> Kevin Smith

"It's so weird to take such a long journey just to get to the middle," said Smith. "Like I wanted to do something which in one way or another could be defined as average. I was used to tearing my heart out, bleeding and putting it into art and this was not that. This was just let's make a movie. Wouldn't it be fun to make a movie?

As it turns out it was fun. And although Smith will soon return to directing his own script (a hockey movie no less!), the roller-coaster experience has left him feeling refreshed.

"I could see where some person could get lost in this," said Smith. "(With) making other people's movies, there's no chance for heartbreak. Whatever happens to Cop Out now, I know that I did the best job I possibly could."

Defendor's got spunk

Defendor

Director: Peter Stebbings
Stars: Woody Harrelson, Kat Dennings
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●●

RICHARD CROUSE
for Metro Canada

REVIEW In Defendor, Woody Harrelson plays a man whose rich inner life spills out into his real life. By day he is dead-end-job-Arthur, but by night he is Defendor, a masked superhero do-gooder.

His task? To clean up the streets of Hamilton, Ont. It sounds like the kind of thing we've seen before, but Canadian actor-turned-director Peter Stebbings puts a unique spin on Arthur's story.

His goal is to infiltrate the lair of Captain Industry, the crime king-pin Defendor believes to be responsible for all of Hammer Town's civic woes.

On his journey he befriends a drug addict with a heart of gold (Kat Dennings) and battles a corrupt cop (Elias Koteas).

On paper Woody Harrelson's role looks unpromising.

He's a disillusioned man with mental health issues who sinks into a fantasy world to help deal with the pain of a troubled past.

We've seen this before, but Harrelson's mix of sincerity and pathos in the reading of the character breathes life into a role that could easily have fallen into cliché.

He's aided by a script—written by Stebbings—which gives him room to firmly establish the character, both as a superhero who believes guns are for cowards and as a real person who is tormented by his mother's descent into a world of prostitution and drug abuse.

It's a solid performance that provides an anchor for the entire movie.

Gritty and very funny, Defendor is a hard movie to categorize. It's not exactly a comedy, nor is it a crime drama.

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Damon, Affleck together again

Thirteen years after Matt Damon and Ben Affleck burst onto the scene with Good Will Hunting, the duo is getting back together. According to reports, Affleck and Damon are talking to Warner Bros. to enter into a producing deal with the studio. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Reel Time

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Takes two to tango

InFocus

Richard Crouse

metronews.ca/infocus

Last week the internet lit up with news that one of the great actor-director teams might reunite to remake one of their classic films.

Rumours (since debunked) had Martin Scorsese and Robert De Niro set to give Taxi Driver the sequel treatment.

It seemed too good to be true — De Niro is busy overseeing the Tribeca Film Festival and Scorsese is occupied with new muse Leonardo DiCaprio — and the rumor turned out to be just that, a rumour.

But for a tantalizing moment it seemed there might be a new film from one of the most dynamic director-actor pairings since Bogart and Huston or Mifune and Kurosawa.

Not that there are any shortage of director-actor teams. Scorsese and DiCaprio's newest bit of teamwork, Shutter Island, opens this weekend and the latest Pedro Almodóvar-Penélope Cruz film, Broken Embraces, was recently nominated for a Golden Globe.

"I think you find, when you talk about a collaboration between a filmmaker and an actor, that it's always evolving," said Shutter Island producer Brad Fischer. "I don't think it begins and ends with any one movie."

Diane Keaton cites the evolution of collaboration with Woody Allen — they made seven films together, including the classic Annie Hall, between 1973 and 1993 — with elevating her from a "novice who had lots of feelings but didn't know how to express herself" to someone who "can be braver and more spontaneous."

"We operate like lovers. So while we don't have the pleasures of sex, we don't have the complications of sex either."
Pedro Almodovar about his relationship with Penelope Cruz

Penélope Cruz is more effusive when discussing her mentor Pedro Almodóvar, who made her an art house darling, international star and claims to have "saved her from Hollywood."

"He changed the way I looked at the world before I even knew him," she says.

"There is something that works really well in our relationship that combines both our friendship and the professional side," says Almodóvar. "We operate like lovers. So while we don't have the pleasures of sex, we don't have the complications of sex either. We work really well as a couple who don't sleep together."

Sometimes the director-actor relationship extends past the movie set. Four years after shooting The Life Aquatic in Italy, Wes Anderson regular Bill Murray (five films together) asked the director to deliver 10,000 Euros in cash to his former landlord.

"It's not as weird as it sounds," said Anderson on paying the rent a little late. "Bill can be a little weird with time."

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.

GETTY IMAGES

Spanish director Pedro Almodovar and actress Penelope Cruz have worked together on a string of acclaimed films.

Rolling Stone
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This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., FEB. 18 TO THURS., FEB. 25. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

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OMNIMAX THEATRE SCIENCE WORLD
1455 Quebec St., 604-443-7443

Listings not available at press time.

CN IMAX THEATRE
201-999 Canada Place, 604-682-4629

Valentine's Day (PG) Fri 7-9:35 Sat-Sun 4-7-9:35 Mon-Thu 7-9:35

FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS
2110 Burrard Street, 604-734-7469

Crazy Heart (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:6:50-9:15
The Last Station (14A) Fri-Wed 1:45-4:10-7:20-9:40 Thu 1:45-4:10-9:40
Salute (STC) Thu 7
Shutter Island (14A) Fri-Thu 1:3:50-6:45-9:35
Up in the Air (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:30-7:10-9:25
Valentine's Day (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7-9:30

GRANVILLE
855 Granville St., 604-684-4000

The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Sun 3:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 8:25
An Education (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-7:05 Mon-Thu 5:30
It's Complicated (PG) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:05-6:50-9:25 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:35
The Lovely Bones (PG) Fri-Sun 1:05-3:55-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:15
Precious: Based on the Novel ``Push'' by Sapphire (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:10-6:55-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:45
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4-6:45-9:35 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:20
Up in the Air (PG) Fri-Sun 1:25-4:15-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:35-8:30
When in Rome (G) Fri-Sun 1:35-4:20-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:40

HOLLYWOOD THEATRE
3123 W. Broadway, 604-738-3211
hollywoodtheatre.ca

Brothers (PG) Fri-Thu 9:30
The Princess and the Frog (G) Sat-Sun 1:30
The Road (14A) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 3:20-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30

OAKRIDGE
650 West 41st Ave., 604-263-1944

Shutter Island (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 7:10:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat-Sun 12:45-3:50-7:10:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Mon-Thu 5-8:15
Valentine's Day (PG) Fri 6:50-9:45 Sat-Sun 1-4-6:50-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:15-8:30
The Wolfman (18A) Fri 7:15-10 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:15-10 Mon-Thu 5:30-8

PACIFIC CINÉMATHÈQUE
1131 Howe Street, 604-688-3456
cinematheque.bc.ca

The Death of Mr. Lazarescu (STC) Mon 7
Frida (STC) Fri 7 Sat 5
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue Thu
Silent Light (PG) Sun 7:30 Wed 9
Tropical Malady (STC) Wed 6:45
Two Crimes (STC) Sat 9:15
Under California: The Limit of Time (STC) Fri 9:05 Sat 7:15

PARK THEATRE
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747

Avatar 3D (14A) Fri 3:45-7:10:10 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:45-7:10:10 Mon-Thu 3:45-7:10:10

RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311

The Hurt Locker (14A) Fri 4-7-9:40 Sat-Sun 1-4-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:40

RIO ON BROADWAY
1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film
riotheatre.ca

Valentine's Day (PG) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 4:30-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30

SCOTIABANK THEATRE VANCOUVER
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

Valentine's Day, with its star-studded cast, opened last week.

Avatar 3D (14A) Fri 11:30-11:45-3:3:30-6:40-7:10-10:20-10:45 Sat-Sun 11:30-3:3:30-6:40-7:10-10:20-10:45 Mon-Tue 11:45-1:30-3:30-5:30-7:10-9:30-10:45 Wed 11:45-1:30-3:30-7:10-9:30-10:45 Thu 11:45-1:30-3:30-5:30-7:10-9:30-10:45
Celine: Through the Eyes of the World (G) Sat-Sun 1
Dear John (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-4-7:20-10
Edge of Darkness (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:10-7:40-10:35
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:45-3:40-6:45-9:40
Shutter Island (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:10-3:50-7:15-10:40 No Passes Fri-Thu 11:40-3:20-6:50-10:10
The Wolfman (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-12:40-3:10-3:45-7:7:30-9:50-10:15

TINSELTOWN
International Village, 88 West Pender, 3rd floor, 604-806-0799
cinemark.com

The Book of Eli (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 2:05-4:50-7:35-10:15
Celine: Through the Eyes of the World (G) No Passes Mon 7 No Passes Thu 7
Crazy Heart (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:25-7:25-10:05
Defendor (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 2:45-5:20-7:50-10:30
From Paris With Love (14A) Fri-Thu 2:40-5:10-7:30-10:20
The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:35-7:40-10:25
The Last Station (14A) Fri-Thu 2:15-5:05-7:45-10:10
My Name Is Khan (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:05-4:30-7:55
Reel Injun (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 2:30-4:45-7:20-9:35
A Single Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 7:15-9:40
Valentine's Day (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 2-3-5-6:05-8-9 No Passes Fri-Sun 1-4-7-10 No Passes Mon 1-4-10 No Passes Tue-Wed 1-4-7-10 No Passes Thu 1-4-10
The White Ribbon (PG) Fri-Thu 3:50

VANCITY THEATRE
Vancouver International Film Centre
1181 Seymour Street, 604-683-Film
vifc.org

Slovak Representative House (STC) Fri-Thu

VAN EAST CINEMA
2290 Commercial Drive, 604-251-1313
vaneast.com

The Wolfman (18A) Fri 7-9:05 Sat-Sun 4:55-7-9:05 Mon-Wed 7-9:05

NORTH SHORE

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

Celine: Through the Eyes of the World (G) Sat-Sun 2 Mon 7:30 Thu 7:30
Dear John (PG) Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:25-4-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 7-9:40
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri 7:25-10:05 Sat-Sun 4:40-7:25-10:05 Mon 10:05 Tue-Wed 7:25-10:05 Thu 10:05
Shutter Island (14A) No Passes Fri 6:50-8-10 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-1:3:40-4:15-6:50-8-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:50-8-10
Valentine's Day (PG) No Passes Fri 6:30-7:20-9:20-10:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:40-1:15-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:20-9:20-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:30-7:20-9:20-10:10

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

Avatar 3D (14A) Fri 6:30-9:50 Sat-Sun 12-3:20-6:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:50
Crazy Heart (PG) Fri 6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:30
From Paris With Love (14A) Fri 7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:10-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:40
It's Complicated (PG) Fri-Thu 10
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) No Passes Fri 7-9:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-7-9:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 7-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri 7:20 Sat-Sun 12:20-3-7:20 Mon-Thu 7:20 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Wolfman (18A) No Passes Fri 7:30-10:20 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-7:30-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:30-10:20

RICHMOND

RICHMOND CENTRE 6
6551 #3 Road, 604-273-7173

Dear John (PG) Fri 4:30-7-9:40 Sat 1:25-4:30-7-9:40 Sun 1:25-4:30-7 Mon-Thu 4:30-7
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) No Passes Fri 4:15-6:55-9:45 No Passes Sat 1:20-4:15-6:55-9:45 No Passes Sun 1:20-4:15-6:55 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:15-6:55
Shutter Island (14A) No Passes Fri 4:10-7:05-10 No Passes Sat 1:15-4:10-7:05-10 No Passes Sun 1:15-4:10-7:05 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:10-7:05
The Spy Next Door (PG) Fri 4:25-7:15-9:35 Sat 1:35-4:25-7:15-9:35 Sun 1:35-4:25-7:15 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:15
Valentine's Day (PG) No Passes Fri 4:20-7:10-9:55 No Passes Sat 1:30-4:20-7:10-9:55 No Passes Sun 1:30-4:20-7:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:20-7:10
The Wolfman (18A) No Passes Fri 4:35-7:20-9:50 No Passes Sat 1:40-4:35-7:20-9:50 No Passes Sun 1:40-4:35-7:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:35-7:20

SILVERCITY RIVERPORT
14211 Entertainment Way, 604-272-7280

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Fri-Thu 11:25
Avatar 3D (14A) Fri 11:15-1:30-2:55-5:30-6:40-9:30-10:35 Sat-Sun 11:15-2:55-5:30-6:40-9:30-10:35 Mon-Wed 11:15-1:30-2:55-5:30-6:40-9:30-10:35 Thu 11:15-1:30-2:55-6:40-9:30-10:35
Avatar: An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) Fri-Thu 11:30-3-6:30-10
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri-Thu 9:25
Celine: Through the Eyes of the World (G) Sat-Sun 1
CTV Olympic Games Broadcast (STC) Fri-Sun 10 Mon-Thu 12
Dear John (PG) Fri-Wed 12:40-3:55-7:20-10:10 Thu 3:55-7:20-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Edge of Darkness (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:25-7:25-10:25
From Paris With Love (14A) Fri-Sat 1-3:45-6:50-9:40 Sun 1-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 1-3:45-6:50-9:40
My Name Is Khan (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-4:20-8:15
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:45-1:15-3:25-4:15-7:05-7:35-10:05-10:35
Shutter Island (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-12:45-3:30-4-7-7:30-10:15-10:45
Sukhmani - Hope for Life (PG) Fri-Thu 11:55-3:15-6:55-10:40
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:35-6:30
Up in the Air (PG) Fri-Thu 10
Valentine's Day (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 11:30-12:30-3-4:05-6:45-7:15-9:45-10:20 No Passes Thu 11:30-3-4:05-6:45-7:15-9:45-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
When in Rome (G) Fri-Sat 1:25-4:10-7:40-10:30 Sun 1:25-4:10-10:30 Mon-Thu 1:25-4:10-7:40-10:30
The Wolfman (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 2-4:45-7:45-10:35 No Passes Fri-Thu 12-3:20-6:55-9:55

BURNABY

DOLPHIN CINEMAS
4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 2-4:30-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20
Valentine's Day (PG) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 2-4:30-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20

SILVERCITY METROPOLIS
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

Avatar 3D (14A) Fri 11:30-11:45-3:3:15-6:40-7:10-10:10-10:25 Sat-Sun 11:30-3:3:25-6:40-7:10-10:10-10:25 Mon-Thu 11:30-11:45-3:3:15-6:40-7:10-10:10-10:25
Celine: Through the Eyes of the World (G) Sat-Sun 1
Dear John (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-4-6:55-9:45
From Paris With Love (14A) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:20-4:45-7:30-10:15
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:10-3:20-6:35-9:40
Shutter Island (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-3:30-7:15-10:30
The Spy Next Door (PG) Fri-Sat 11:50-2:10-4:35-7:10-9:35 Sun 11:50-2:10-9:35 Mon-Wed 11:50-2:10-4:35-7:10-9:35 Thu 11:50-2:10-4:20-6:30
Valentine's Day (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:20-3:40-6:45-10
When in Rome (G) Fri-Tue 11:35-2-4:25-6:50-9:30 Wed 11:35-2-4:25-9:50 Thu 11:35-2-4:25-6:50-9:30
The Wolfman (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:50-7:25-10:20
WWE Elimination Chamber - 2010 (STC) Sun 5

STATION SQUARE
220-6200 McKay Ave., 604-434-7711

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri 4:05-7:05-10:05 Sat 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05 Sun 1:05-4:05-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:05-7:05
Edge of Darkness (14A) Fri 4:10-7:10-10:10 Sat 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10
An Education (PG) Fri 4:30-7:25-10:25 Sat 7:25-10:25 Sun 7:25 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:25
Legion (14A) Fri 4:25-7:30-10:30 Sat 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:30 Sun 1:25-4:25-7:30 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:30
Precious: Based on the Novel ``Push'' by Sapphire (14A) Fri-Sat 4:15-10:15 Sun-Thu 4:15
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri 4-7-10 Sat 1-4-7-10 Sun 1-4-7 Mon-Thu 4-7
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri 4:20-7:20-10:20 Sat 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20 Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:20
Up in the Air (PG) Fri 7:15 Sat-Sun 1:15-7:15 Mon-Thu 7:15

NEW WEST/ COQUITLAM

SILVERCITY COQUITLAM
170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:40
Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 11:55-2-3:45-6:15-7:45-10
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 6:50-10:10
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri-Sat 12:45-3:40-7:40-10:35 Sun 12:45-7:40-10:35 Mon-Thu 12:45-3:40-7:40-10:35
Crazy Heart (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:35-7:35-10:30 Wed 3:35-7:35-10:30 Thu 12:40-3:35-7:35-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
CTV Olympic Games Broadcast (STC) Fri-Sun 10 Mon-Thu 12
Dear John (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05-3:25-6:55-9:45
Edge of Darkness (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:10-7:15-10:30
From Paris With Love (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:40-8:10-10:40
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-1:10-3:20-4:20-6:45-7:20-9:35-10:15
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-4-7:25-10:35
Shutter Island (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-12:50-3:30-4:05-7-7:30-10:20-10:40
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Thu 1:3:50-6:55-9:55
Up in the Air (PG) Fri-Thu 10:25
Valentine's Day (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:35-3:55-7:30-10:45 No Passes Wed 3:55-7:30-10:45 No Passes Thu 12:35-3:55-7:30-10:45 No Passes Fri-Thu 12-3-7-10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
When in Rome (G) Fri-Sat 1:25-4:25-7:25-9:50 Sun 1:25-4:25-9:50 Mon-Thu 1:25-4:25-7:25-9:50
The Wolfman (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:10-12:45-3:10-3:55-6:50-7:20-9:40-10:05

SURREY/WHITE ROCK/LANGLEY

CLOVA
5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

Invictus (PG) Fri-Thu 7
Nine (PG) Fri-Thu 9:30
The Princess and the Frog (G) Sat-Sun 1:30

HOLLYWOOD 3 CINEMA
7125-138th Street, Surrey, 604-592-4441

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Fri 4:30-6:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:30-4:30-6:30 Mon-Thu 4:30-6:30
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 4:30
Edge of Darkness (14A) Fri-Thu 6:55
Legion (14A) Fri 9:15 Sat-Sun 12:30-9:15 Mon-Thu 9:15
The Lovely Bones (PG) Fri-Thu 8:20
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri 4:30 Sat-Sun 2:30-4:30 Mon-Thu 4:30
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri 6:30-8:55 Sat-Sun 12-6:30-8:55 Mon-Thu 6:30-8:55
The Spy Next Door (PG) Sat-Sun 2:30

STRAWBERRY HILL GRANDE
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400

Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 12-3:30-7:10:30
CTV Olympic Games Broadcast (STC) Fri-Sun 10 Mon-Thu 12
Dear John (PG) Fri-Sat 1:40-4:30-7:30-10:15 Sun 1:40-4:30-7:40-10:15 Mon-Tue 1:40-4:30-7:30-10:15 Wed 4:30-7:30-10:15 Thu 1:40-4:30-7:30-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
From Paris With Love (14A) Fri-Thu 9:50
My Name Is Khan (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-1-4:20-4:50-8-9
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:05-10
Shutter Island (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-4-7:15-10:25
Sukhmani - Hope for Life (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:40-6:50-10:05
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:15-6:55-9:30
Valentine's Day (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:40-4:05-7:10-10:10 No Passes Wed 4:05-7:10-10:10 No Passes Thu 12:40-4:05-7:10-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
When in Rome (G) Fri-Sat 1:30-4:25-7:20-9:40 Sun 1:30-7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:25-7:20-9:40
The Wolfman (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:25-9:55

STUDIO 12 GUILDFORD
15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

Avatar (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2-6:30-10:05
Celine: Through the Eyes of the World (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 7:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 7:30
Dear John (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:05-3:50-6:50-9:30
From Paris With Love (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:35-4:25-7:20-9:45
My Name Is Khan (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-4:30-8
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-4-7:05-10:15
Shutter Island (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:45-1:20-3:55-6:40-7:45-9:55
Tooth Fairy (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:10-6:55-9:25
Valentine's Day (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:50-1:15-3:45-4:15-6:45-7:15-9:40-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:15-4:15-6:45-7:15-9:40-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:50-1:15-3:45-4:15-6:45-7:15-9:40-10:10
The Wolfman (18A) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 12:55-1:25-4:05-4:35-7:7:30-9:50-10:10

RIALTO
1732-152nd Street, White Rock, 604-541-9527, criterionheatres.com

Crazy Heart (PG) Fri 7-9:10 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:10 Mon-Thu 7-9:10
Dear John (PG) Fri 7:10-9:15 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:15 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:15

CRITERION 4 WHITE ROCK
2381 King George Highway, 604-531-7456, criterionheatres.com

Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri 7:20-9:30 Sat-Sun 2:20-7:20-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:30
Shutter Island (14A) Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 7-9:40
Valentine's Day (PG) No Passes Fri 7:10-9:35 No Passes Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:35 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:10-9:35
The Wolfman (18A) Fri 7:30-9:45 Sat-Sun 2:30-7:30-9:45 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:45

COLOSSUS LANGLEY
20090-91A Ave, Langley, 604-513-8747

Avatar 3D (14A) Fri 12-1-3:30-5-7-9:10:30 Sat-Sun 12-3:30-5-7-9:10:30 Mon-Thu 12-1-3:30-5-7-9:10:30
Avatar: An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) Fri-Thu 11:30-3-6:30-10
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-7:10
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri-Sat 12:20-3:45-7:40-10:25 Sun 12:20-3:45-10:25 Mon-Thu 12:20-3:45-7:40-10:25
Celine: Through the Eyes of the World (G) Sat-Sun 1
Crazy Heart (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-4-6:45-9:45 Wed 12:15-6:45-9:45 Thu 12:40-4-6:45-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
CTV Olympic Games Broadcast (STC) Fri-Sun 10 Mon-Thu 12
Dear John (PG) Fri-Thu 12-3:25-7:45-10:30
Edge of Darkness (14A) Fri-Sat 12:55-4:05-7:20-10:20 Sun 12:55-7:20-10:20 Mon-Thu 12:55-4:05-7:20-10:20
From Paris With Love (14A) Fri-Thu 3:40-10:25
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:35-4:10-7:25-10:20 No Passes Fri-Thu 12:05-3:35-6:55-9:40 **herlock Holmes** (PG) Fri-Thu 10:10
Shutter Island (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-12:35-3:35-4:05-7:05-7:30-10:10-10:45
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:55-6:50-9:30
Valentine's Day (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 11:55-12:30-3-3:50-7:05-7:35-10-10:30 No Passes Wed 11:55-12:30-3:50-7:05-7:35-10-10:30 No Passes Thu 11:55-12:30-3-3:50-7:05-7:35-10-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 3
When in Rome (G) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:15-4:40-7:15-10:05
The Wolfman (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-1-3:50-4-7:15-7:40-10-10:30

The Billboard 200
1. Soldier of Love, Sade; 2. Need You Now, Lady Antebellum; 3. Another Round, Jaheim; 4. Rebirth, Little Wayne; 5 Haywire, Josh Turner. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Leonard Cohen

Cohen passed the torch to Lang, son says

OLYMPICS When he was asked to perform at last week's Olympic opening ceremonies in Vancouver, Leonard Cohen basically told organizers "hallelujah" for k.d. lang.

Adam Cohen, the son of the singing, songwriting icon, revealed in an interview this week that organizers wanted his father to appear at the kickoff ceremonies last Friday for the Olympics in Vancouver.

"We're all huge fans of k.d. lang," Adam Cohen said, referring to members of his family. "She's exquisite, and in fact there was a moment where people were pressing quite hard to invite my father to participate. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Death by misadventure'

The legacy of AC/DC's Bon Scott lives on today, 30 years after his death

BRIAN TOWIE
for Metro Canada

"You can stick your nine to five living and your collar and your tie. You can stick your moral standards cause it's all a dirty lie." Bon Scott knew it, lived it and died by it.

Millions of AC/DC fans will spend this Friday marking the 30th anniversary of Scott's "death by misadventure" as the London coroner pronounced. On Feb. 19, 1980, the Scottish-born singer was found in a car after a night of hard drinking, dead of acute alcohol poisoning at age 33.

Fans around the world have been flocking to Fremantle, Western Australia to pay their respects at his final resting place, reportedly the most visited grave in that country and a national heritage site. For good reason too: If school-uniform clad guitarist Angus Young was the face of AC/DC, then Scott gave the band its cavalier damn-the-rules-and-have-fun ethos, delivered with his trademark bare-chested rock 'n' roll strut.

All the more tragic that Scott's death coincided with AC/DC finally getting the recognition it deserved after years of cult status. Highway To Hell, released in 1979, went platinum seven times over and was the band's first album to break into the U.S. Top 100, catapulting AC/DC to superstardom among the world's top hard rock acts.

The approach stayed the same as ever: Unsophisticated pulse-pounding riffs accompanied Scott's powerful and at times self-deprecating working man's sensibility and insatiable lechery (Scott roars on track Shot Down In Flames, "She was standing alone over by the jukebox like she'd something to sell. I said, 'Baby, what's the going price?' She told me to go to hell."). Add in classics like Girls Got Rhythm, Touch Too Much and Night Prowler (a favourite among strippers and at least one serial killer, unfortunately) and you've got something instantly resonant with every young red-blooded male just trying to make his way in the world.

Highway To Hell — released the year before the death of Bon Scott — catapulting AC/DC to international superstardom.

Within weeks of Scott's cremation, AC/DC reorganized with new lead singer Brian Johnson, to cut a tribute album to their departed friend. Released in July 1980, Back In Black became the second-highest selling album ever next to Michael Jackson's Thriller, with an estimated 50 million copies sold worldwide to date. In 1997, the band released Bonfire, a tribute box set featuring a collection of unreleased tracks — including a grittier version of If You Want Blood (You Got It) — two live performance discs and a remastered version of keystone album Back In Black.

It truly is a long way to the top, if you wanna rock 'n' roll. Luckily for AC/DC, he played a big part in getting them there.

"I ain't to old to die, but I sure am hard to beat," Bon Scott once declared on track Ride On. Amen to that.

Keep it short and tweet

Social media is changing our relationship with music

SoundCheck
Alan Cross
metronews.ca/soundcheck

"Coldplay fans — 2.5 million of them — get offers directly from the band or through the mysterious Roadie #42 (coldplay)."

NOTE: This is definitely an article you'll want to rip out to use for future reference.

In Twitter parlance, Fridays are Follow Friday (or, more correctly, #followfriday), the day on which many users offer suggestions on whom to track. To find anyone or anything listed below, just sign in to Twitter, click "Find People" and enter the name provided. If don't have a Twitter account, getting one is free and easy at twitter.com.

Artists: Coldplay fans —2.5 million of them — get offers directly from the band or through the mysterious Roadie #42 (coldplay). Weezer is so serious about social media that they take Karl, their webmaster, with them just about everywhere they go. He's how fans first learned about their bad bus crash (WeezerOfficial). Sloan likes to connect fans to new songs (Sloanmusic). And check out Courtney Love's grammatically and politically incorrect screeds (CourtneyLoveUK).

Music News: Most music magazines and websites offer Twitter alerts with breaking news or links to interesting stories. Britain's NME (NMEmagazine) does a great job as does Spin (SPINmagazine) and Rolling Stone (RollingStone). Highly underrated is Canada's FYI Music (fyimusic), which is a great aggregator of content.

Music Writers and Bloggers: Many writers of music columns for newspapers push out their own tweets in real time. Neil McCormick, who writes for London's Daily Telegraph, offers amusing tweets as he flits between gigs and interviews (neil_mccormick). Bob Lefsetz is the music industry's most outspoken critic and is a must read (Lefsetz). And when Billboard's Glenn Peoples links to something with his tweets, I'm guaranteed to click through (billboardglenn).

Record Labels: Most labels have figured out that Twitter can be an excellent promotional tool for their artists with offers, contests and news. Follow Sony (Sony_Music), Universal (Universal_Music), EMI (emimusiccanada) and Warner (warnercanada). Indie MapleMusic is also very good (maplemusicrecs).

A great place to find more people and things to follow is at wefollow.com. And you are following Metro, right? You can follow Metro's music writers from across Canada at twitter.com/TheMetroMusic.

Me? I can guarantee you lots of music news, opinion and links by following ExploreMusic, my web-and-radio thing (ExploreMusic). And I'm posting music and tech stuff to my personal feed (alancross) from everywhere all the time. For example, I'm in Oslo, Norway, today. Find out why with a quick follow.

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Follow Metro Music
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The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

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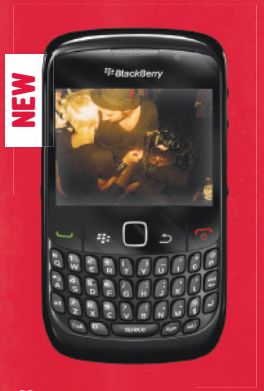
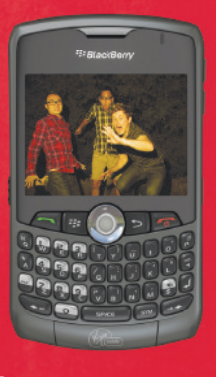


BlackBerry Curve 8530
$24.99



BlackBerry Curve 8330
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BlackBerry Pearl™ Flip
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While my guitar gently weeps

His plans are in flux, but Kevin Eubanks says that for now he'll still be with Jay Leno when they return to the Tonight Show, but in a reduced capacity. Eubanks reportedly was going to leave at some point after the show resumes March 1. **PEOPLE.COM**

Television

Less Than Kind seeks a kinder audience at HBO

After failing to capture audiences on Citytv, Less Than Kind returns for a second season on HBO Canada with showrunner Mark McKinney touting the premium channel as a better fit for the black comedy.

McKinney says a move up the dial grants the Winnipeg-based series greater freedom to push the boundaries than during its limited run on conventional television.

"The show was always conceived to be quite edgy, quite dark and to take a lot of permission with the subject matter, and now that we're on HBO it just fits like a glove," says McKinney, seated next to star Maury Chaykin for a round of media interviews.

"It's kind of where the show belongs, I think, on premium TV. We make use of it, and I don't just mean by cursing and showing nudity — although there is some of that. It's about the way you can sort of explore a theme."

The serial nature of shows on HBO Canada — home to such daring fare as the polygamy drama Big Love and the vampire romance True Blood — allows Less Than Kind to pursue its long story arcs without fear of losing audiences to surprise schedule changes, McKinney says.

Less Than Kind airs on HBO Canada Friday

He bemoaned the show's Citytv time-slot — directly after the sensational reality show The Bachelorette — as less than kind to the offbeat series, about the trials of an overweight teen and his overbearing Jewish family.

The cast of Less Than Kind

"We sort of caught a bad break at the beginning because the (Bachelorette), which was scheduled at 90 minutes ... was this runaway hit last year and they extended the show for two hours," notes the writer/producer.

"And because City was trapped into a simulcast they had to bump us, and so we came back on the dial sometime in mid-March."

"It started to build an audience and then the poor audience didn't know where to find it," adds Chaykin. McKinney says the beauty of premium cable is that schedules are generally a lot more consistent and not as "reactive" as on network TV.

Things for the Blecher clan don't look good as the new season kicks off with the beleaguered Sheldon and his kin standing vigil at the bedside of their dying patriarch, played by Chaykin. McKinney's Kids in the Hall pal Dave Foley guest stars as Dr. Sheasgreen, a doctor whose efforts to display his skill at comforting the grieving are frustrated when Sam's health unexpectedly rallies.

Other guests this season include George Wendt from Cheers as a biker, and Henry Czerny of The Tudors and The Boys of St. Vincent as a love interest for Sheldon's aunt, Clara.

Less Than Kind airs on HBO Canada on Friday, followed by the debut of the animated Ricky Gervais Show and, later in the evening, the launch of the web spinoff Funny or Die Presents.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Octomom checks out The View

TALK SHOW ABC says octuplets mother Nadya Suleman will make her first appearance as a guest on The View next week.

Suleman and her children have been a frequent topic of debate on the weekday talk show, co-hosted by Barbara Walters, Whoopi Goldberg, Joy Behar, Elisabeth Hasselbeck and Sherri Shepherd. She will appear Wednesday on the show.

Widely known as Octomom, Suleman gained international attention last year for giving birth to octuplets, the second full set of octuplets born alive in the United States. She also has six other children. She conceived all her children by in vitro fertilization and she has been criticized for growing this huge family as a single mother on public assistance.The octuplets celebrated their first birthday in January.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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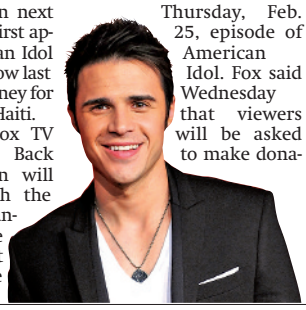
America Idol sings for Haiti's supper

HAITI RELIEF Kris Allen next week will make his first appearance on American Idol since winning the show last year, to help raise money for earthquake-ravaged Haiti.

As part of the Fox TV show's Idol Gives Back charity effort, Allen will travel to Haiti with the United Nations Foundation. He'll share video from his visit and sing on the Thursday, Feb. 25, episode of American Idol. Fox said Wednesday that viewers will be asked to make donations online or by text-messaging, with the money going to the Idol Gives Back Foundation to help support the U.N. Foundation's work in Haiti.



Idol Gives Back takes place on the April 21 episode of American Idol, raising money for five charities, including Feeding America and Malaria No More.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sweet-and-Spicy Chicken Stir-Fry

PREP TIME: 10 MIN. ➤ TOTAL TIME: 20 MIN. ➤ MAKES: 4 SERVINGS

What You Need
1 lb. (450 g) boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into bite-size pieces
1 Tbsp. oil
3 cups chopped mixed fresh vegetables (red peppers, broccoli, mushrooms)
1 clove garlic, minced
1/4 cup Kraft Calorie-Wise Catalina Dressing
2 Tbsp. hoisin sauce
1 tsp. crushed red pepper

Make it
COOK and stir chicken in hot oil in large skillet on high heat 1 min. Add vegetables and garlic; cook and stir 3 to 5 min. or until chicken is lightly browned.
ADD remaining ingredients; cook 2 min. or until chicken is done and vegetables are crisp-tender.

THIS WEEK ON THE SHOW – SPEEDY SUPPERS ➤ whatscookingtv.com

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Doherty chose Canada over L.A.

There was no California dreamin' for the family of the late Halifax singer Denny Doherty, who co-founded the 1960s sunshine pop group the Mamas & the Papas.

Emberly Doherty, his daughter, says her mother insisted he leave Los Angeles in the 1970s to escape the local rock 'n' roll party scene that sparked his alcohol addiction.

With that, Denny and Jeanette Doherty raised daughter Emberly and son John away from the spotlight in Halifax, Mississauga, Ont., and New York.

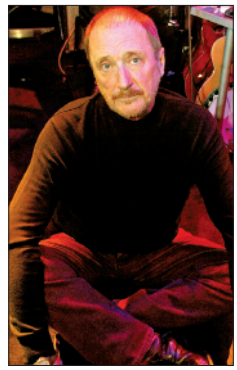
And Doherty says that saved him.

"Thank God he got out of California and got away," Doherty, 28, said of her dad, who is the focus of Sunday's final Great Canadian Biographies instalment on Bravo.

"They say it in the documentary that my mom saved his life. Like, I don't know what would've happened if he had continued down that road. He got out of Dodge."

Here I Am: Denny Doherty and the Mamas & the Papas chronicles the beloved performer's rise from north-end Halifax to the top of the charts with the band that scored hits including California Dreamin and Monday, Monday.

Doherty, who died in January 2007, is also seen in the doc telling his life story in his off-Broadway show Dream a Little Dream, named after late band member (Mama) Cass Elliot's first solo single. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Denny Doherty

FRIDAY 2/19/10

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	Marketplace	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National (N)		City-lan
	250	321	9 CTV	(3:00) XXI Winter Olympics Figure Skating, Skeleton, Medal Ceremonies. Figure Skating; Skeleton; Medal Ceremonies. (Live) (CC)								
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	House "Teamwork" (CC)		Shark Tank (CC)		NUMB3RS "Friendly Fire"		News
	256	389	12 VI	TMZ (N)	Access H.	Ghost Whisperer (CC)		Medium (CC)		The Mentalist (CC)		A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Murdoch Mysteries		Glenn Martin	Glenn Martin	Mantracker (CC) (DVS)		Dark Blue "Ice" (CC)		EP Daily
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	Smallville "Persuasion" (N)		Smallville "Idol" (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Ghost Whisperer (CC)		Medium (CC)		NUMB3RS "Friendly Fire"		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Olympic Zone	XXI Winter Olympics Figure Skating, Skeleton, Skiing, Ski Jumping. (Same-day Tape) (CC)						
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy! (N)	Meet the Fockers ★★ (2004) Robert De Niro. (CC)				20/20 (N) (CC)		News
	290	382	23 FOX	Two Men	Two Men	House "Teamwork" (CC)		Kitchen Nightmares (CC)		News	Most Wanted	Family Guy
news	502	390	23 NW	Tasered (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		Tasered (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
family sports	407	419	22 RSP	(3:00) XXI Winter Olympics Cross Country Skiing, Hockey, Curling. (Live)								Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	(3:00) XXI Winter Olympics Curling, Figure Skating, Skiing, Ski Jumping. (Live)								SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	To Be Indie	To Be Indie	The Next Star (CC)		That's-Weird	Fries That?	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol
	555	545	50 TEL	Batman	Wolverine	Justice	Star Wars	Futurama	King of Hill	Hellboy: Sword of Storms (2006) (CC)		
	268	354	5 KNO	Leaving the Lights (CC)		Poirot (N) (CC)		Dalziel and Pascoe (CC)		A Married Couple ★★ (1969) Premiere.		
cable variety	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	CMT Greatest: Live Videos		Funniest Home Videos		Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Jim
	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds "Jones"		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal
	521	560	34 TLC	Dress	Say Yes	What Not to Wear "Gina"		Dress	Say Yes	What Not to Wear "Heather"		What Not
	616	522	39 SHO	Relic Hunter (CC)		Odysseus and the Isle of the Mists (2008) Arnold Vosloo.				Kenny vs.	Kenny	Trailer Park
	294	650	47 TBS	(6:00) Scary Movie 4 ★★		Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle ★★				(:45) Scary Movie 4 ★★ (2006, Comedy) Anna Faris. (CC)		
	603	561	69 FN	Diners	Diners	Ramsay's Kitchen		Diners	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Diners
	-	-	55 AMC	(5:00) Spy Game ★★ (2001)		Movies	Aliens ★★★★ (1986, Science Fiction) Sigourney Weaver, Carrie Henn. (CC)					
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:30) Courage (2009)		Easy Virtue ★★ (2008) Jessica Biel.				(:40) The Women ★★ (2008) Meg Ryan, Eva Mendes. (CC)		
	581	566	101 MTV	16 and Pregnant "Jenelle"		1 girl 5 gays	Cribs (CC)	Buried	Life of Ryan	16 and Pregnant (CC)		1 girl 5 gays

SATURDAY 2/20/10

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	22 Minutes	Laughs	Coach Carter ★★★ (2005, Drama) Samuel L. Jackson, Robert Ri'chard. (CC)						News
	250	321	9 CTV	(3:00) XXI Winter Olympics Speed Skating, Bobsledding, Short Track Speed Skating, Medal Ceremonies. (Live) (CC)								CTV News (N)
	252	336	11 GTV	renegade	Jane Show	The Last Trimester (2006) Chandra West. Premiere. (CC)		On the Nose ★★ (2001) Robbie Coltrane. (CC) (DVS)		Love-Death	G-Spot (CC)	News Final
	256	389	12 VI	New Canoe	Island Week	Kool Countdown (CC)		The Road to Avonlea		Stargate Atlantis		Bravo!FACT
	253	359	13 CITY	Cooking	Amazing	Glenn Martin	Out There	On the Nose ★★ (2001) Robbie Coltrane. (CC) (DVS)				Crusoe
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	The Mask of Zorro ★★★ (1998, Adventure) Antonio Banderas, Anthony Hopkins. (CC)						CSI: NY
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment Tonight (N)		NUMB3RS (CC)		48 Hours Mystery (CC)		48 Hours Mystery (N) (CC)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Backroads	Olympic Zone	XXI Winter Olympics Speed Skating, Bobsled, Skiing. (Same-day Tape) (CC)						
	288	380	21 ABC	Fortune	Jeopardy!	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban ★★★ (2004, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe. (CC)						News
	290	382	23 FOX	Two Men	Two Men	Cops (N) (PA)	Cops (CC)	America's Most Wanted		News	Most Wanted	Wanda Sykes
news	502	390	23 NW	Wired for Sex		National	Issue	National	Mansbridge	Wired for Sex		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom		Newsroom
family sports	407	419	22 RSP	(3:00) XXI Winter Olympics Curling, Figure Skating, Hockey. (Live)								Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	(3:00) XXI Winter Olympics Curling, Skiing, Short track Speed Skating, Hockey. (Live)								Olympics
	552	543	25 YTV	Zeke's Pad	Prank Patrol	The Next Star "Makeover"		That's-Weird	Prank Patrol	Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Dennis the Menace ★★ (1993) Walter Matthau. (CC)				Futurama	King of Hill	Chicken	Venture Bros.	Moral Orel
	268	354	5 KNO	National Geographic (CC)		Heartbeat (CC)		Midsomer Murders "The Black Book" (CC)				Married
cable variety	575	583	20 CMT	Little Big Town Live		The Show	Talkin' 'Bout	Gilmore Girls (CC)		Gilmore Girls "Die, Jerk"		Cheerleaders
	615	520	31 A&E	(5:00) The Green Mile (1999)		Seagal	Seagal	(:01) The Green Mile ★★★ (1999, Drama) Tom Hanks, David Morse. (CC)				
	521	560	34 TLC	Police Women of Broward		Police Women of Broward		Police Women of Broward		Police Women of Broward		Police
	616	522	39 SHO	Slings and Arrows (CC)		The Unquiet (2007) Cara Buono, Don S. Davis. (CC)				Resident Evil: Extinction ★★ (2007) (CC)		
	294	650	47 TBS	(6:00) Hitch ★★★ (2005)		(:15) Last Holiday ★★ (2006) Queen Latifah, Gérard Depardieu. (CC)					Almost Famous ★★★★	
	603	561	69 FN	Top Chef Masters (CC)		Hell's Kitchen (CC)		River Cottage Treatment		Chopped (CC)		Top Chef
	-	-	55 AMC	(5:00) The Bodyguard ★★		River of No Return ★★★ (1954) Robert Mitchum.				Broken Lance ★★★ (1954) Spencer Tracy.		
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:10) Wanted ★★★ (2008)		The Taking of Pelham 123 ★★ (2009)		(:45) Hancock ★★ (2008) Will Smith, Charlize Theron. (CC)				
	581	566	101 MTV	Canada's Next Top Model		Canada's Next Top Model		Canada's Next Top Model		Canada's Next Top Model		Model

SUNDAY 2/21/10

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	Heartland (CC) (DVS)		Saint Ralph ★★★ (2004) Adam Butcher. (CC)				CBC News: The National		News
	250	321	9 CTV	(3:05) XXI Winter Olympics Bobsledding, Speed Skating, Hockey, Figure Skating, Medal Ceremonies. (Live) (CC)								
	252	336	11 GTV	16:9-Picture	Family	Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy	Amer. Dad	(:01) Brothers & Sisters (N)		News Final
	256	389	12 VI	Cold Case "Metamorphosis"		The Amazing Race 16 (N)		Desperate Housewives (N)		(:01) Undercover Boss (N)		New Canoe
	253	359	13 CITY	Survivorman (CC) (DVS)		Extreme Makeover: Home		Murdoch Mysteries (CC) (DVS)				Crusoe
	-	-	14 CW	Boston Legal (CC)		CSI: Miami "Raising Caine"		CSI: NY "No Good Deed"		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	60 Minutes (N) (CC)		The Amazing Race 16 (N)		Undercover Boss "7-Eleven"		Cold Case "Metamorphosis"		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	XXI Winter Olympics Figure Skating, Speed Skating, Freestyle Skiing, Bobsled. (Same-day Tape) (CC)								KING 5 News
	288	380	21 ABC	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives (N)		(:01) Brothers & Sisters (N)		News
	290	382	23 FOX	'Til Death (N)	'Til Death (N)	Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy	Amer. Dad	News	Sports	House (CC)
news	502	390	23 NW	Tasered (CC)		World-Shoplifting		CBC News: The National		Assault in the Ring (CC)		
	500	500	33 CNN	Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live		Newsroom		State/Union
family sports	407	419	22 RSP	(3:00) XXI Winter Olympics Speed Skating, Figure Skating, Biathlon. (Live)								Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	(3:00) XXI Winter Olympics Curling, Speed Skating, Skiing. (Live)								SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	(6:00) King of the Camp (CC)		The Next Star (CC)		Fries That?	Fries That?	Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Stoked (CC)	Total Drama	Majority	6TEEN	Futurama	King of Hill	Chicken	Futurama	Tripping-Rift
	268	354	5 KNO	Planet Carnivore (CC)		The Royal A day at the park.		Prime Suspect Tennison is transferred to Soho. (N) (CC)				Beautiful
cable variety	575	583	20 CMT	Martina McBride		Star Crossed	Star Crossed	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Funniest Home Videos		Hope & Faith
	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds "Doubt"		Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal
	521	560	34 TLC	Confessions of a Reality		Kidnapped for 18 Years		Natalee Holloway: Lost		Confessions of a Reality		Stories of ER
	616	522	39 SHO	Cra$h & Burn "Til Death"		The Perfect Assistant (2008, Drama) Rachel Hunter. (CC)				Damages (N) (CC)		Cra$h & Burn
	294	650	47 TBS	(6:45) American Wedding ★★		(2003)		(:45) The Sweetest Thing ★ (2002) Cameron Diaz. (CC)			The Ringer ★★ (2005)	
	603	561	69 FN	Dinner: Impossible (CC)		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Jamie's Chef (CC)		Iron Chef America (CC)		Dinner
	-	-	55 AMC	(5:00) Forrest Gump ★★★		Forrest Gump ★★★ (1994, Drama) Tom Hanks, Robin Wright, Gary Sinise.						Dances
	320	621	60 CEN	(4:50) Watchmen ★★ (2009)		Semi-Pro ★★ (2008) Will Ferrell. (CC)			Fred Claus ★★ (2007) Vince Vaughn, Paul Giamatti. (CC)			
	581	566	101 MTV	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	1 girl 5 gays	Movie Night	Canada's Next Top Model		Canada's Next Top Model		Model

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Gilmore movie adaptation

Alexis Bledel has a lot on her plate, but Gilmore Girl fans will be happy to hear that she won't rule out a movie adaptation. "I don't know what the story would be, but I would be curious to find out what it would be," she said. POPEATER.COM

Going Out

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 The Mystery of Lewis Carroll: Jenny Woolf

BOOK Prepare for the rabbit hole (Tim Burton's film version of Alice in Wonderland's out March 5) with this new biography of the famed author. British journalist Jenny Woolf's chronicle digs deep into some of the rumours that have surrounded the writer over the years: Was he a pedophile? Was his most enduring character based on Alice Liddle?

2 Hotdosclibrary.ca

WEBSITE Fans of Canadian documentaries can now get their fill online. The Hot Docs documentary film festival is making hundreds of titles available for viewing at hotdocslibrary.ca. The library offers free access to films by some of the country's leading directors, including Jennifer Baichwal, Allan King, Avi Lewis and John Haslett Cuff.

3 The Damned United

DVD Soccer fan or not, this was arguably the best sports film — yes, not The Blind Side— released in 2009. British thespian Michael Sheen is on the ball with his portrayal of legendary soccer manager Brian Clough, who made a living out of transforming minor clubs to league champs only to fall flat during his short tenure with '70s powerhouse Leeds United. Too bad Oscar didn't come calling.

4 Leonard Cohen

MUSICIAN OK, some credit goes to K.D. Lang for her haunting rendition of the singer-songwriter's Hallelujah at the Olympics opening ceremony. But the fact that the song was one of the highlights of a night not short of spectacle speaks volumes for Cohen's enduring influence.

5 Odd Blood: Yeasayer

ALBUM Brooklyn's where it's at. Like their burrough peers TV On The Radio and The Dirty Projectors, the New York City trio play hard at being avant-garde pop stars. The band's second album is as much a curve ball as their debut, but tracks like Ambling Alp might just land them on the charts.

6 Heavy Rain

GAME If experts are to be believed, this title will revolutionize the world of video games. The noirish PlayStation3 thriller takes interactivity to cinematic heights. Shave, shower, do the grocery, bribe people, beat the hell out of someone — there are plenty of options at any given time, which ultimately affects the outcome of the game.

7 Shutter Island

FILM Master filmmaker Martin Scorsese returns to Cape Fear territory with this psychological thriller based on a Dennis Lehane novel. Will it reach the heights of Oscar-winning The Departed? Probably not, but Marty and his muse, Leonardo DiCaprio, still pile on the dread.

Mix of Six

DeadMau5

When: Friday, 9:30 p.m.
Where: LiveCity Yaletown

Progressive house and electro house producers from Toronto close out the night at Vancouver's alcohol-free, no charge party zone on the shore of False Creek. Nightly closing show featuring fireworks.

Town Pants

When: Friday, 9 p.m.
Where: LiveCity Downtown

Vancouver Celtic rock band Town Pants hits the stage at the free downtown party zone Friday night. Alcohol is sold at this LiveCity site and a DJ act closes out the night.

Sam Roberts Band

When: Saturday, 9 p.m.
Where: LiveCity Yaletown

Juno Award-winning Montreal-based rock singer-songwriter Sam Roberts is the feature performance in Yaletown Saturday night. He follows other great musicians including Kardinal Offishal, Jay Malinowski and Coeur de Pirate.

Sherman Downey

When: Saturday, 9:30 p.m.
Where: LiveCity Downtown

Newfoundland musician Sherman Downey has been turning heads in the folk industry and now has travelled across Canada to perform Downtown Vancouver.

Jully Black

When: Sunday, 9:30 p.m.
Where: LiveCity Yaletown

Toronto R&B singer of Jamaican heritage Jully Black is the headline act at the Yaletown LiveCity site Sunday. Hits like Rally'n and You Changed are some of her most popular songs. The Dal Richards Orchestra performs earlier in the evening.

In-Flight Safety

When: Sunday, 9 p.m.
Where: LiveCity Downtown

Halifax indie-rock band In-Flight Safety perform in front of the Olympic crowds Sunday night.

Rowling facing lawsuit
Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling has been added to the 2004 suit against her British publisher Bloomsbury, which claims Rowling stole the idea for the fourth book in the series, eonline.com reports. **POPEATER.COM**

Entertainment

Fey to reprise her Palin SNL sketch

Tina Fey

TV Tina Fey will probably reprise her famous impression of Sarah Palin when she hosts Saturday Night Live in April, the comedian told The Associated Press.

"It's inevitable that we'll try it, at least," Fey said in an interview Tuesday. "We'll see if it makes it to air."

Officials at the NBC sketch show wouldn't comment; SNL generally doesn't discuss any planned sketches, given that much can change even in the hours before show time.

Fey's performances as the former Alaska governor and Republican vice-presidential candidate were an icon of the 2008 campaign and drew huge ratings for SNL.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oscars scale back music

Artists behind this year's nominees will not be performing

Some of Oscar's most memorable moments have come during performances of nominated songs.

Among them: rap group Three 6 Mafia surrounded by streetwalkers as they performed It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp from Hustle&Flow in 2006, and Celine Dion's resplendent performance of the Titanic hit, My Heart Will Go On, in 1998.

Don't expect such musical moments at the 82nd Academy Awards.

The artists behind the year's five nominated songs will not perform during the Oscar telecast. Instead, the songs will be showcased with clips from the films that featured them, "which is how most nominated achievements are featured within the show," Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences spokeswoman Leslie Unger said Wednesday.

The Academy Awards will be presented March 7

That means Randy Newman won't get to take the stage for his two nominated tunes, Almost There and Down in New Orleans from The Princess and the Frog.

Marion Cotillard won't reprise her sexy, heart-wrenching performance of Take It All, written by Maury Yeston for Nine. Reinhardt Wagner and Frank Thomas can't bring their Loin de Paname from Paris 36 to life. And The Weary Kind (Theme from Crazy Heart) won't be performed by Crazy Heart star Jeff Bridges or its writers Ryan Bingham and T Bone Burnett.

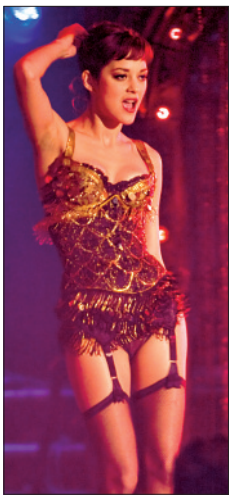
"We haven't been invited," Bingham said, seeming a bit surprised.

There will still be dancing on the show. Producer and choreographer Adam Shankman announced on his Twitter page that he cast 69 dancers for the show's production numbers, though he hasn't revealed exactly what he has planned.

The Oscar troupe includes at least a dozen dancers from the Fox reality show So You Think You Can Dance, where Shankman serves as a judge.

"All there for the movies!" he tweeted.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


Marion Cotillard won't be reprising her sexy Take It All peformance from Nine at the 82nd Academy Awards.

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Bun came home!

In what may be the happiest story of the month so far, West Coast Choppers bad boy Jesse James has found his dog CinnaBun, who went missing three weeks ago. The West Coast Choppers Web site declares "CinnaBun Is Found!!!" METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

From the mouth of babes

THE TRUTH HURTS LIKE A NEEDLE IN THE ARM Courtney Love claims her estranged daughter has no confidence in her comeback, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 45-year-old rocker is about to return to the music scene with new album Nobody's Daughter but received very little support from 17-year-old Frances Bean, who she lost custody of in December.

"One time, Frances was being mean and said, 'What are you going to do if the record fails?'" Love, the widow of Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain, told Spin magazine.

"Well, Frances, it can't fail because I love it, and I've worked really hard to make sure that I love it."

Love is currently embroiled in a custody battle over Frances, who is living with her grandmother Wendy O'Connor and Cobain's sister Kimberly Dawn Cobain after Frances took out a restraining order against her mother.

Love — who has previously battled drug problems — admits the ongoing case and her estrangement from her daughter are both taking their toll on her.

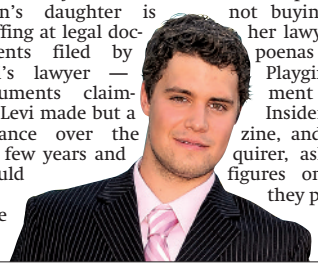
As well as the battle for her daughter, Love is also beset by financial problems, and last year claimed Cobain's $750 million legacy had been stolen from her.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

He's been a very bad boy

WELL, AT LEAST SARAH AND HER DAUGHTER THINK SO Bristol Palin apparently thinks her baby daddy, Levi Johnston, is a big fat liar ... and she's subpoenaing CNN and Playgirl to prove it, TMZ reports.

The lawyer for Sarah Palin's daughter is scoffing at legal documents filed by Levi's lawyer — documents claiming Levi made but a pittance over the last few years and should not have to pay $1,688.42 a month in child support — which is what Bristol wants.



Levi says the best he's done in the income department so far is last year — claiming he made approximately $101,000.

TMZ reports that Palin's not buying it, because her lawyer issued subpoenas today to CNN, Playgirl, Entertainment Tonight, The Insider, Star Magazine, and National Enquirer, asking for hard figures on how much they paid Levi.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

It's all about the music, baby

OH, AND THE SEX AND DRUGS, OF COURSE The soap opera starring Steven Tyler and Joe Perry just keeps getting more convoluted, popeater.com reports.

Aerosmith — the whole band — has been tapped to headline the Download Festival in June, even though recent news reports suggested the iconic rock group was moving on without their troubled lead singer.

In a statement on the festival's site, Tyler said, "In the early days of Aerosmith we were infected with the vibe coming out of the UK with the Yardbirds, Blues Breakers, Pretty Things and the Stones and we wanted what they had bad.

"So baby, we're coming home. Rock & Roll can be pure sex and we can't wait to Download ..."

Relations between the two old friends have been tenuous at best since last August when Tyler plummeted off a concert stage and months later entered rehab for pain killers.

Official channels within the Aerosmith machine have yet to comment on the booking.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Giving some Leo insight

NOW CAN WE TALK ABOUT WHAT A STELLAR ACTRESS THIS GIRL IS? Emily Mortimer and Leonardo DiCaprio may have worked closely for months together in Martin Scorsese's new psychological thriller Shutter Island, but when it comes to the personal life of the man she calls "the world's most gorgeous movie star," the new mom admits she hasn't a clue, people.com reports.

Asked about the recent rumblings that DiCaprio may finally settle down with longtime girlfriend Bar Rafaeli — despite some occasional bumps in their relationship and his rep's denial the duo became engaged — Mortimer, 38, let out a laugh and said, "I didn't know he wasn't married!

"I'm sure that he will, yes, and be very happy."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Can you feel the love tonight?

THEY SURE DID Elton John slept with David Furnish after their first date, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer — who wed the Canadian filmmaker in December 2005 — was smitten with his future spouse the first time they met and took him out for dinner the next day and afterwards they spent the night together.

"I was attracted to David immediately. He was very well dressed, very shy. The next night we had dinner," he said.

"We fell in love very quickly."

The pair met during a dinner party at John's house in 1993, after the pop star begged a friend to introduce him to new group of people.

John also revealed to Parade magazine he and Furnish write love notes to each other every week, to keep the romance in their relationship alive.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Myth #76: sons need their fathers

THE NANNIES WILL BE GREAT AT PLAYING CATCH ... AND TEACHING HIM SPANISH Kourtney Kardashian has reportedly split from Scott Disick, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 30-year-old socialite is said to have ended her romance with the father of her two-month-old son Mason because she felt "trapped" and was growing increasingly frustrated with him.

"Kourtney resents Scott for his behaviour," a source told In Touch magazine.

"They fight about almost everything when they're together."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

Don't worry guys, **KRISTIN CAVALLARI**'s OK and not on drugs, **NICOLE "SNOOKI" POLIZZI** — the next American guidette is in London? **LINDSAY LOHAN**'s ignoring real life and her dad Michael tries to save her (but that's nothing new), and **SPENCER PRATT**'s new yoga practice has some unintended side effects.

@KristinCav: To all my fans: PLEASE don't believe what u read and hear this wk. Its NOT true!!! I am happy and HEALTHY

@Snooki: Just did an interview for the uk and let me tell ya I friggin love their accents! Ellow my british gweedows

@lindsaylohan: ignoring real world issues/reality

@MichaelJLohan: @Lindsay-Lohan...., need to have a serious PRIVATE talk...

@spencerpratt: I have proven that KUNDALINI YOGA taps your Feminine power in your body because I find myself crying now at least once a day!tweet?

METRO WORLD NEWS

GETTY IMAGES

Big fat wedding

TULLE! MORE TULLE! Simon Cowell is planning the "biggest showbiz wedding for years," reports femalefirst.co.uk. The music mogul's friends have confirmed he proposed to girlfriend Mezhgan Hussainy on Valentine's Day and are amazed at how happy the make-up artist is making him.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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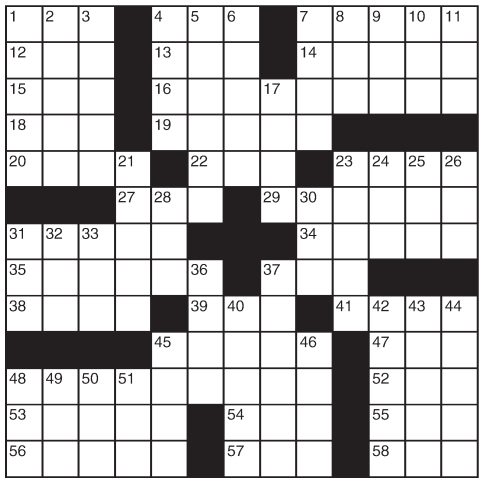
Take Five



ACROSS

1 Priestly robe
4 Uncooked
7 Refuse to, quaintly
12 Up to
13 Blond shade
14 Eagle's nest
15 Sapporo sash
16 Hoard
18 Chaps
19 "1984" laborer
20 Letter opener's creation
22 Mimic
23 "—Misbehavin' "
27 Attention-getting cry
29 Lots
31 External
34 Battery inventor
35 Easy-to-build house
37 Scratch
38 Coloration
39 Honest politician
41 Redact
45 Boutique
47 Away from WSW
48 Sweden's capital
52 Conditions
53 Half-diameters
54 Mid-May honoree
55 Collection
56 That is (Latin)
57 Pigs' digs
58 Attempt

DOWN

1 Fermi's bits
2 Written slander
3 Filled, folded pancakes
4 Grate
5 Off course
6 Jubilant yell
7 Benefit
8 With it, once
9 Onassis, familiarly
10 Zero
11 Ball-bearing item
17 Chanteuse Laine
21 Robbery
23 Worship
24 Under the weather
25 Bottom line
26 Airport screeners' org.
28 Detergent brand
30 Eventual aves
31 Make up your mind
32 Swiss canton
33 Sawbuck
36 Dog owner's ordeal
37 Dry red wine
40 Times of prosperity
42 Believer of a sort
43 Draw a conclusion
44 Irritable
45 "SNL" segment
46 It long eluded Lucci
48 — Lanka
49 Youngster
50 Rhyming tribute
51 USSR successor

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

8				7				4
	4				2	6	5	
	2		6	3				
	9					4		
3		2				8		7
		1					3	
				1	3		8	
	8	3	9				6	
5				2				9

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

5	2	6	8	7	4	9	1	3
7	4	9	1	5	3	2	6	8
1	3	8	2	6	9	5	7	4
6	1	7	4	8	2	3	9	5
4	5	3	9	1	6	7	8	2
9	8	2	7	3	5	6	4	1
3	6	4	5	9	8	1	2	7
2	9	1	3	4	7	8	5	6
8	7	5	6	2	1	4	3	9

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Orange-blossom Lamb

INGREDIENTS:
8 lamb chops
2 tbsp (25 ml) butter
1 can orange juice concentrate, thawed
1 medium onion, sliced
2 tsp (10 ml) soy sauce
1 tsp (5 ml) salt
Dash pepper

METHOD:
1) In large skillet, brown lamb chops in butter over medium heat. Add remaining ingredients and mix well.
2) Reduce heat; cover and simmer 20-25 minutes or until meat is tender, turning once. To serve, spoon sauce over lamb.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Something will not work out the way you expected today but there is no need to panic because in the short-term it does not matter.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Something will happen over the next day or two that encourages you to reconsider a belief or opinion that you have never had cause to question before.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You don't need anyone's approval to follow a course of action that is right for you both financially and emotionally.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You may be well organized but not everyone is as in control of their lives as you are, so make allowances.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Everything will go well for you today so long as you don't get distracted by things that are of no real importance. Don't waste time on trivialities.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
If someone offers you their help today you should think long and hard before you accept.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
The reason a loved one is acting a little bit cold towards you at the moment is because you said or did something they do not approve of.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You have been working too hard of late and need to go easier on yourself over the next few days.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You have allowed too many people to get away with too many things in recent weeks and now you have no option but to reassert your authority.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Some of the people you will have to deal with today don't know how to think logically or act in predictable ways, and there's not much you can do.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Do something out of the ordinary today. Do something that even by your madcap Aquarius standards is a little bit over the top.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
If you are having doubts about a commitment that only a short while ago you thought was going to be the making of you then pull out while you still can.

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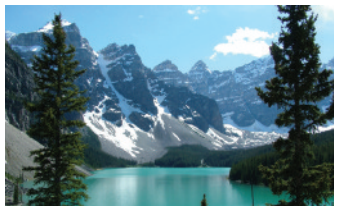

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